Arnold is an enigma on gay rights

Gay GOPers to attend Monday's swearingin; gay Democrats wait for a meeting.

Breaking the silence Hepatitis B group reaches out to gay Asians.

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Stories from the front Arthur Dong documents the war on homosexuals. see Arts section



Vol. 33 · No. 46 · 13 November 2003

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# Is the Milk bust a bust?

### Fundraising for late supervisor's memorial stalled

by Zak Szymanski

lanked by former aides and friends of murdered gay Supervisor Harvey Milk, San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez announced at

President Matt Gonzalez announced at the beginning of this year that he was leading a fundraising campaign for a memorial bust of Milk to be placed in City Hall.

The envisioned bust would be similar to the busts in City Hall honoring past mayors, including George Moscone; Dianne Feinstein, who's now a U.S. senator; George Christopher; and John Shelley. The estimated cost of the project is between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Money is supposed to be raised by donations through the city controller's office, and by small fundraisers held by LGBT and and by small fundraisers held by LGBT and progressive advocates.

Not much has been heard about the pro-

ject since that announcement, and 10 months later, even the 25th anniversary of the late su-



In January, Matt Gonzalez announced the kickoff fundraising campaign for the bust of Harvey Milk

pervisor's assassination has not kick-started

the fundraising efforts.

According to a log from Controller Ed Harrington's office, the city-kept donation fund stands at a little over \$3,000. Initially,

poured in, with several individuals contributing \$100 January and npanies like companies Denning and LLC, ates donating \$500, the maximum althe maximum allowed. Total receipts for January were \$2,300.69. February saw two donations totaling \$125, and in March, another \$660 was raised. But there have been no recorded

been no recorded donations then

Gonzalez, ac cording to his aide Amy Laitinen, remains "very seriously committed" to getting the project off the ground, and as of a few weeks ago had placed some phone calls about orga-

ago had placed some phone calls about organizing the funding drive.
"He understands how important this is, especially given the anniversary of the assassinations," said Laitinen.
But Gonzalez also has a mayoral campaign to run, an effort which some people say has slowed their own progress on the Milk memorial bust. For instance, the Lavender Greens, the local LGBT Green Party group, had planned to help raise funds for the memorial bust, but between the recall election and Gonzalez's mayoral run, "we've had tion and Gonzalez's mayoral run, "we've had our hands full," said Michael Alterman of the

# Another Bay Area TG victim down

by Zak Szymanski

he Oakland Tribune reported the city's 105th homicide victim as a man. The San Francisco Chronicle described the victim as a "male cle described the victim as a maie rransvestite," 'found wearing a woman's halter top and earrings, with a wig nearby. The online news site 365gay.com reported the murder of a 'transgender woman," although the story provided no evidence that the victim lived full-time in female role. And in a queer word slip not untypical of indymedia.org. the progressive of indymedia.org, the progressive news site posted an article with its own heading that referred to the vic-tim as a "transgender man," despite the fact that the identity refers to fe-male-born people who transition into

men.
While the victim's true gender identity may be unknown to out-siders, the available facts about the re-cent slaying remain clear: at around 4 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, two

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## **Bush congratulates MCC** on 35th anniversary

by Cynthia Laird

uring the same week that President Bush endorsed the antigay "Marriage Protection Week" last month, he sent an en-thusiastic letter to the pre-dominantly gay Metropoli-tan Community Churches, congratulating the fellow-ship on its 35th anniversary

News of the October 14 let-ter was released by MCC head-quarters in West Hollywood

on Monday, November 10.

The move left MCC leaders scratching their heads over the apparent mixed mes-sages conveyed by the Bush administra-tion. Bush endorsed the Marriage Protec-tion Week that was organized by several antigay organizations and leaders of the

religious right.
"President Bush was wrong in his endorsement of a week dedicated to denying equal rights to gays and lesbians. And while we appreciate the sentiments he expressed on MCC's anniversary, the president has sent a very mixed message that makes his effusive praise of MCC's 35th anniversary all the more puzzling," the Reverend Troy Perry, moderator of MCC, wild in a statement. said in a statement.

Last month Perry and other gay rights leaders expressed alarm at Bush's proclamation in support of Marriage Protection Week, which was designed to "preserve the sacred institution of marriage" by denying the right to marry gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders.

als, and transgenders.
Bush's letter to MCC stated in part, "By encouraging the celebration of faith and sharing of God's love and boundless mercy, churches like yours put hope in people's hearts and a sense of purpose in



MCC Rev. Troy Perry, left, with Rev. Neil Thomas and the congratulatory letter from President Bush.

their lives. This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on your years of service and to rejoice in God's faithfulness to

our congregation."

The Reverend Neil Thomas, senior astor of MCC-Los Angeles, said he was

pastor of MCC-Los Angeles, said he was baffled by the letter. "How does one denounce the right of gays and lesbians to marry in their churches and suggest they are incapable of having healthy marriages in one moment, and in the next rejoice in God's faithful-ness to a gay and lesbian congregation that performs same-sex marriages?" Thomas

MCC is one of the world's largest gay

MCC is one of the world's largest gay organizations, and was founded by Perry in 1968. Today, MCC provides almost 300 local churches for its 43,000 members and adherents in 22 countries.

While MCC churches perform more than 6,000 same-sex wedding ceremonies annually, those "marriages" aren't legally recognized in the United States. Canada allows legal gay marriage, as does the Netherlands.

A Bush spokesman, Ken Lisaius, did not return a call from the *Bay Area Reporter* by press time. ▼

## **Newsom and Gonzalez** compete for gay votes

by Matthew S. Bajko

n the race to capture the sup-port of the city's gay commu-nity in the December 9 runoff race, mayoral candidate Supervisor Gavin Newsom has racked up endorsements from numerous gay civic leaders, one of the LGBT political clubs, and the city's gay and lesbian police officers' associ-

Newsom, a Democrat, is the perceived front-runner heading into next month's election, when he will compete against Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, a Green Party member. Both men want to replace Mayor Willie

Brown, who is termed out of of-fice after serving eight years, and both are courting the city's LGBT voters for their sup-

port.
This afternoon at 2 p.m., leaders of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club and the San Francisco Police Officer's Pride Alliance will announce their support for Newsom. Both groups had endorsed city Treasurer Susan Leal, an out lesbian, in the general election

"We feel he is the best candidate for the job and will make a great mayor," said Inspector Lea Militello, co-chair of the Pride



Leslie Katz, left, and Bevan Dufty announce support for Gavin Newsom, right.

Alliance. "He is innovative, technology minded, and clearly understands what our officers need and he knows our department needs to get back on track. And he is committed to that."

Militello said the decision to support Newsom was an easy one considering his op-ponent, Gonzalez, did not respond to the al-liance's questionnaire during the general

"He didn't respond to our endorsement process last time," said Militello. "He hasn't

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## **Day of Remembrance** honors TG victims

At least 37 murdered in past 12 months

by Zak Szymanski

vailable statistics once indi-

vailable statistics once indicated that transgender people were killed at a rate of one per month worldwide.

Over the past two years, however, that number has spiked, with an average of one anti-transgender murder per month just in the United States, and three per month across the globe.

Thirty-seven people lost their

month across the globe.

Thirty-seven people lost their lives to anti-transgender violence in the last 12 months, according to the grassroots project Remembering Our Dead. While not all of the victims necessarily identified as transgender – that is, as a transsexual, crossdresser, or otherwise gender-variant individual – advocates say all were victims of anti-transgender hatred, even if law enforcement authorities did not classify all their deaths as

Their lives, and the lives of all victims of anti-transgender vio-lence, will be commemorated on the fifth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance next Thursday,

Events will take place throughout the Bay Area, as well as inter-nationally, to honor the fallen and to raise awareness about the



Gwen Smith

prevalence of hate crimes against transgenders. An evening event planned for San Francisco includes a 6:30 p.m. vigil and a march from Harvey Milk Plaza to the LGBT Community Center for a memorial program of music and

"Day of Remembrance publicly mourns and honors the lives of our brothers and sisters who might otherwise be forgotten," according to a statement from organizers. "Day of Remembrance reminds non-transgendered people that we are their sons, daughters,

parents, friends and lovers. Day of Remembrance gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who've died by anti-transgender violence."

Victims of anti-transgender violence include more famous cases, like Brandon Teena, 20, who in 1993 was shot to death, then stabbed, by his alleged rapists in Nebraska; his story was the sub-ject of the movie *Boys Don't Cry*, for which actress Hilary Swank won an Oscar

Many people are also familiar with Gwen Araujo, 17, who was beaten and strangled in October 2002 at a party in the East Bay city of Newark when her peers discov-ered she was biologically male.

Other victims since Araujo's murder may not have received as much media attention, including Ronald Andrew Brown, 16, a widely known crossdresser in Rockhampton, Australia, found stabbed to death in March; Merlinka (Vjeran Miladinovic), an author and film star known as Serbia's first out transwoman, who was found dead in April; Jessica Mercado, 24, who was found stabbed to death and draped across her mattress in the charred remains of her New Haven, Connecticut apartment in May; and Hendricks Thomas, a drag per-

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#### Correction

In the article "Newsom and Gonzalez ready for December runoff" in the November 6 edition, it should have said that Sheriff Michael Hennessey had been elected to his seventh term in office. The Bay Area Reporter regrets the error.

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# Lambda Legal turns up heat on Cirque du Soleil

by Cynthia Laird

hen Cirque du Soleil's Alegria show opened a mul-tiweek run at the Pacific tiweek run at the Pacific Bell Park parking lot Thursday, No-vember 6, one local activist braved the rainy night and handed out fly-ers to attendees, pointing out that the traveling circus is engaged in a bitter legal battle as a result of fir-ing an out gay performer, allegedly because he is HIV-positive. "Discrimination! Another side of Cirque du Soleil," read the head-ing on the flyer. Lambda Legal De-

ing on the flyer. Lambda Legal De-fense and Education Fund, which is assisting gay gymnast Matthew Cu-sick in his fight to get his job back, had produced the flyer. Cusick alleges that because he has HIV, the company would not continue to employ him. In a letter last spring responding to Lambda Legal's for-mal request to reinstate Cusick in the Mystere show currently playing in Las Vegas, Cirque du Soleil's attorney's said the company was acting as a "socially responsible employer" that has an obligation to ployer" that has an obligation to avoid "known safety hazards," ac-

avoid "known safety hazards," according to Lambda Legal.

"We are drawing a line in the sand, which has often been the case here in San Francisco," activist Aaron Baldwin stated. "Discrimination against people with HIV or AIDS is a serious concern for all leshing may bis avail and the programment of the same and the same and the same area." bian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, and we won't allow Cirque du Soleil's discrimination against

Matthew Cusick to go unnoticed."
[See the Sports Complex col-umn on page 18 for an interview with Cusick.]

th Cusick.]

Lambda Legal is planning a larger community action for Thursday, November 20 before the evening performance of Ale-gria. Michael Adams, director of education and public affairs for the organization, said he is working with other organizations for the upcoming campaign, though he would not say which other LGBT groups might be involved.

For its part, Cirque du Soleil is standing by its safety issue claim. Renee-Claude Menard, director of



Aaron Baldwin protests Cirque du Soleil at its opening of *Alegria* November 6 in San Francisco.

public relations for the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil, told the Bay Area Reporter that the compa-ny is surprised by Lambda's "ag-gressive" tactics.

"The accusations hurt," Menard said.

Menard said she was aware of last week's leafleting effort and of Lambda's plans to hold a larger

demonstration.

"The more we hear about it ... it's quite sad because they have no intention of discussing the case with us," she said.

with us," she said.

"Several months ago, we decided to terminate a two-month employment contract with Mr. Cusick," Menard said in a telephone interview Tuesday, November 11.

"The reason is not what is alleged by Lambda, but safety reasons."

The Cusick case is currently being investigated by the Las Vegas office of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Menard said, and Cirque du Soleil is cooperating fully with that probe.

Aerial acts, such as those Cusick would have performed, are

sick would have performed, are "very high level, they are high-risk acrobatics," she said. "It has nothing to do with discrimination, it had to do with safety.

had to do with safety."

"It was a very tough decision for us to make and was very safety oriented," she explained. She said that during the EBOC investigation, Cirque du Soleil will "expose what we mean by highrisk. It's hard to understand."

She said that Cusich the presence.

She said that Cusick never per-

formed in the Las Vegas show Menard declined to discuss

the ongoing EEOC investigation.

Lambda Legal maintains that Cusick was cleared by Cirque du Soleil's own doctor for "full participations of Circus".

cirque du Soleil has many openly gay performers and support staff in its nine shows currently on tour in several cities, Menard said.

The circus employs more than 2,500 people worldwide.

"Our reputation is definitely open-minded," she said. "The shows average 45-50 staff (on stage] and the support staff is close to 100 other people. We're very multicultural and have employees from very diverse backgrounds." One of its gay employees, Gas-ton Elie, is one-half of the male-fe-

ton Elie, is one-hall of the male-fe-male trapeze team that performs what Cirque du Soleil calls "the dramatically sensuous Synchro Trapeze" in Alegria. In a recent in-terview with B.A.R. arts writer Richard Dodds, Elie reported no signs of homophobia from his van-tage point. He even met his boyfiend, a massage therapist, durboyfriend, a massage therapist, dur-ing the show's Denver run and he now works for the circus because it

now works for the circus because it was looking for a message therapist.

"The big managers in Cirque are gay," Elie said during the interview, "and with me and my boyfriend, it's just hands together backstage. I kiss him in front of everybody, and no one says anything about it." ▼



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## **Dufty endorses Harris for DA**

by Zak Szymanski

he's one of the only politi-cians who can unite the likes of Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and former Supervisor Harry Britt behind the same candidate, and on Monday, November 10, Kamala Harris picked up another key endorse-ment when District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty announced his support for her campaign.

Harris, a progressive candidate for district attorney who has vowed to make the office more effective than incumbent Terence Hallinan's administration, made it to the December runoff with 33.5 percent of the vote. She aims to unseat Hallinan – who finished

unseat Hallinan – who finished first with 35.8 percent of the vote last week – when the runoff election is held December 9.

"San Franciscans want and deserve a holistic and effective system of justice," Dufty said during the announcement of his endescenent, "Kymala has heen a dorsement, "Kamala has been a

champion for our rights. She also has the vision and experience to bring about needed reform while improving public safety."

Dufty did not endorse a candidate in the D.A.'s race during the

general election.

Harris has broad support from progressive and more moderate progressive and more moderate communities alike, and she said that Dufty's endorsement is key because the neighborhoods that strongly supported Dufty in 2002 also supported Bill Fazio in last week's election, indicating that voters there have had enough of Hallinan. Fazio finished last citywide with 305 percent of the vote.

Hallinan. Fazio Innished last city-wide, with 30.5 percent of the vote. District 8 returns show Halli-nan captured 41 percent of the vote there, while Harris took 34 percent. The remaining 25 percent went to Fazio, which are votes that Harris now believes she can win. Although Hallinan won more peighborhoods overall unofficial

neighborhoods overall, unofficial election returns show that twothirds of all voters were opposed to keeping Hallinan. Even in the Bayview, where Hallinan has traditionally made a strong showing, Harris beat Hallinan by a margin

Harris beat Hallinan by a margin of two to one.
Former Supervisor Angela Alioto, who finished third in last week's mayoral contest, has thrown her support behind Hallinan and pledged to campaign for him in areas where she ran strong-live the Paying Harris. ly, including the Bayview. Harris, however, has the endorsement of the Bayview's Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.
With Dufty's endorsement,

Harris' supporters now include four supervisors (Maxwell, Fiona Ma, and Aaron Peskin); one-time pervisors Leslie Katz and Roberta Achtenberg; Riley Morgan of the Transgender Task Force; the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club; Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action; Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom; and community activists and advocates Hank Wilson, Donna Sachet, Miguel Bustos, Esther Lee, Lisa Chun, Theresa Sparks, and Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. ▼



# Daly's gay PUC pick ruled invalid

by Cynthia Laird

he openly gay architect that San Francisco Supervisor Chris Daly named to the city's Public Utilities Commission last month while he was acting mayor cannot serve on the panel because Mayor Willie Brown had already made an appointment to the seat. the city attorney's office

the seat, the city attorney's office ruled Monday, November 10. In a statement, Daly said he hopes that Robin Chiang, the ar-chitect he named to the PUC during his 14-hour stint as acting mayor on October 22, will be se-lected by whoever wins the mayoral runoff next month to serve on the commission.

Daly's other appointment, for-mer national Sierra Club Presi-dent Adam Werbach, will stand,

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the city attorney's office determined, unless eight members of the Board of Supervisors vote against the appointment. The term of Werbach's seat expires on January 15, 2007.

January 15, 2007.

"After a thorough investigation, the city attorney has issued his opinion, and I will abide by it as we move forward," Daly stated. "Questions about the process have been sufficiently explored and answered by the city attorney."

Jesse Capin Smith, chief assistant city attorney and Buck Del.

tant city attorney, and Buck Delventhal, the chief of the governmental law division, issued a 13-page decision Monday afternoon. They determined that Brown's appointment of Andrew Lee had been completed by the mayor on October 16 and that Daly, in his capacity as acting mayor, lacked any power to rescind that ap-

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Chiang had been selected to fill the seat to which Lee had been appointed.

Brown said during his State of Brown said during his State of the City address last month that he has asked Lee to resign from his seat, so that the process can start over. The term of that empty seat expires on January 15, 2004. But so far, Lee has not submit-ted a resignation letter. Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who took over for Daly as acting mayor

took over for Daly as acting mayor after Brown found out about Daly's unexpected move, told the anter Brown round out about Daly's unexpected move, told the Bay Area Reporter before the city attorney's opinion was issued that he was "not really clear" as to what was happening. Dufty was on vacation this week and did not attend a Rules Committee meeting Wednesday, November 12.

Dufty said, "My belief is that all the [PUC] appointments should be withdrawn until the next mayor takes office."

During the special meeting of the board's Rules Committee Wednesday, Brown addressed Supervisor Tony Hall, committee chair, and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, who also sits on the committee. The

also sits on the committee. The mayor blasted the process used by Daly and called on the committee and the full board to reject Daly's appointments.

"This is not about Willie Louis Brown Jr., this is about the office of mayor," he said.

Brown said that when he makes appointments, he has a vetting process that is followed, including having the person meet

with the supervisors, who ultimately can reject an appointment with eight votes.

"The Daly plan was just the opposite," the mayor said. "There was no notice – to you, the board, my office, or the public."

Following Brown's appearance at the committee, Hall asked Werbach, who was in the audience, to approach the podium. Hall asked Werbach three times whether he would resign his seat – each time Werbach said he would not quit. Hall them summoned City Attorney Dennis Herrera to the

torney Dennis Herrera to the podium. Herrera reiterated the ruling his office issued and said it was the only decision on the mat-

The meeting was still going on as the *B.A.R.* went to press.



Supervisor Chris Daly

## **Gay bashing victim** seeks witnesses

by Zak Szymanski

his year's Halloween party in the Castro was more con-trolled than usual, but crimes did occur, including an alleged gay bashing outside the Men's Room bar.

The victim, and advocates from Community United Against Violence, are now asking anyone who may have witnessed the assault or its aftermath to step for-

ward with any information.

As reported in the Bay Area Reporter's Crime and Punishment column last week: at approximately 9 p.m. on October 31, two men were leaving the Men's Room bar located next to the 7-Eleven at 18th and Sanchez, when a man dressed all in black suddenly dart-ed from the crowd, yelling, "I'm going to kill all these faggots!" The suspect then hit one of the men in the face, knocking him unconscious. The suspect's female companion tried to pull him away, but

the suspect kept swinging at several other people nearby, continu-ing to yell homophobic remarks. Two police officers who were rid-ing in an electric cart patrolling the crowd saw the incident and chased the suspect, apprehending him in front of 7-Eleven. The sus-pect resisted, swinging and spit-ting on the officers. Two deputy sheriffs at the gate by Noe and 18th saw the suspect resisting and helped to take the 19-year-old sus-pect into custody. The victim sustained head trauma and was taken to the hospital by paramedics.

In order to successfully prose-

cute the attacker, witnesses are urged to bring forth any informa-

Those who think they can be helpful should call Inspector Henry Kirk at General Work Detail (415) 553-1141 or Tina D'Elia, hate violence survivor program director at CUAV at (415) 777-5500 ext. 304. All witnesses can give anonymous tips to either numbers. ▼

## **AHP** hosts benefit



CSF AIDS Health Project Executive Director Dr. James Dilley, left, with honoree Barbara Richmond, of the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, at AHP's gala November 6. In addition to Richmond, the late Peggy Ermet was honored with AHP's Community Pillar Award. Harold Rasmussen, deputy country director of the CDC's Global AIDS Program, received the AHP Champion Award, and Chevron Texaco, a longtime supporter of AHP, received a Community Pillar Award. The evening included entertainment by Spencer Day, a supper buffet, wine tasting, and silent auction.



## **GLMA** names interim executive director

by Matthew S. Bajko

ix months after its executive director stepped down, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Gay and Lesbian Medical Association named a former Clin-ton administration appointee as its interim executive director. Joel Ginsberg, a lawyer and

former management consultant with San Francisco's Compass-Point Nonprofit Services, took on the six-month assignment two weeks ago. The association's board approved and announced the temporary hire at is annual con ference in Miami in late October.



GLMA's Joel Ginsberg

"He was hired really to help us He was nired really to nelp us look at the organization from top to bottom to see where we can im-prove. So far it's been incredible," said Dr. Kenneth Haller, GLMA's president, who declined to dis close Ginsberg's pay package. "H has done an amazing job. He worked with us as a consultant over the summer on organizational policy. When we decided it really was time to get an interim E.D. he was one of the people we

As LGBT health issues became a new battleground for the con-servative right, GLMA has also servative right, GLMA has also tapped someone who is no stranger to the way Washington works. A legislative assistant to former San Diego Congresswoman Lynn Schenk, Ginsberg worked on the passage of the Ryan White CARE Act in 1991. He also was named as a special assistant to the congressional liaison at the U.S. Information Agency and special assistant to Doris Meissner, the former commissioner of the the former commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization

'I've got a lot of work in health

"I've got a lot of work in health policy and understanding the political and legislative process. I think I can be helpful in the media strategy and understanding how to deliver policy messages in an effective way," Ginsberg said.

He said his top priorities are to ensure GLMA has good financial information and that all appropriate financial controls are in place, and to ramp up its development effort with individual donors and corporate sponsorships.

"GLMA has an enormous potential to do more. No other organization is addressing LGBT health in a comprehensive way,"

In March, Maureen O'Leary decided to resign as GLMA's executive director after more than

five years on the job in order to spend more time with her part-ner. The association's offices are in San Francisco and O'Leary's partner was living in Newark, New Jersey.

After O'Leary left, Haller said the board wanted to take some

the board wanted to take some time to evaluate the association. When O'Leary was hired, GLMA was \$500,000 in debt with an annual budget of \$1.5 million.

"It was pretty substantial debt," said Haller, an assistant professor of pediatrics at St. Louis University School of Medicine. "Over the last five years of paying it off it is now below \$100,000."

The agency has no reserve fund and has struggled over the past year with funding. In addition to the downturn in the economy, a federal rule change in how pharmaceutical companies can make donations has also impacted GLMA's bottom line.

"Before, a drug rep could say

'Sure we will give \$25,000' for a conference or for general operating expenses and we would get the check in a week," explained Haller. "Now it goes through a review panel based on federal guideline changes in the last year. It hit this spring and created a drought in when we could expect money from drug companies." from drug companies

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## Gonzalez's 'leadership'

ere's San Francisco Board of Supervisors President and mayoral candidate Matt Gonzalez's idea of leadership: Call a news conference on the steps of City Hall, surround yourself with longtime gay leaders and many friends and colleagues of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk, and announce that you're spearheading a fundraising drive to get a bust of Milk installed in City Hall.

Then, do nothing for the next 10 months.

Mass we report this week, that's exactly what has happened to the plan for the Milk bust in City Hall. When Gonzalez held his news conference, he even picked a historic and the 25th anniversary of Milk's own swearing-in to the Board of Supervisors on January 9, 1978, after his 1977 victory. "We thought it would be a good occasion to an-January 9, 1978, after his 1977 victory. "We thought it would be a good occasion to announce the campaign to raise dollars for the memorial," Gonzalez said at the time. The envisioned memorial would be similar to the busts in City Hall honoring past mayors. Gonzalez said that donations would not exceed \$500 per person, and would be held in a special City Hall account until enough money had been raised. He estimated that between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in contributions needed to be raised for the project.

tions needed to be raised for the project.
That was months ago. To date, the fund is just over \$3,000; no donations have been recorded since March.
Now that Gonzalez is in the middle of

battling Supervisor Gavin Newsom in the mayoral runoff race, little is likely to be

done for the project.

In a mayoral race, a candidate's public record is an indication of leadership and skill; and in this instance, Gonzalez has

He should have monitored the fundraising campaign, and when he noticed that do-nations had dwindled to a trickle, he could nations had dwindled to a trickle, he could have jump-started the fundraising effort that he had launched. During May and June, in the run-up to San Francisco's Pride festivities, Gonzalez could have tapped into the publicity surrounding Milk to re-boot the campaign. This year's Pride theme was "You've gotta give them hope," a reference

to one of Milk's most famous speeches. And there was much in the local media about 2003 being the 25th anniversary of Milk's murder – along with the murder of Mayor murder – along with the murder of George Moscone – by disgruntled ex-Supervisor Dan White.

Now, here we are two weeks before the November 27 anniver

sary of the City Hall slayings – Moscone has a bust in City Hall; there won't be one for Harvey Milk this year. While it's unlikely that a bust could have been completed in time for **Editorial** 

could nave been completed in time for this year, the lack of action on Gonzalez's part to lead the campaign means that it probably won't even happen by next year. With just over \$3,000 collected so , much more fundraising needs to be

done before the project can move forward. To top it all off, in the intervening months since Gonzalez announced the bust fundraising campaign, he has strained relations badly with members of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. His late entry into the mayor's race in August torpedoed whatever chance gay Supervisor Tom Am-miano had to win a spot in the runoff elec-tion; that has left a nasty aftertaste among

; that has left a nasty aftertaste among some Milk Club members.

And what do Gonzalez supporters have to say? That the special recall election, coupled with the mayor's race, has left everyone without time to focus on the Milk bust project. A convenient excuse, but it's one that doesn't satief.

n't satisfy.

It's a blown opportunity –

It's a blown in leaderand an abject lesson in leader-ship – or lack thereof. San Francisco's LGBT community

should rally around the fundraising campaign, but not because of anything Matt Gonzalez has done. We should support it because it's important that Harvey Milk be afforded the dignity of a bust in City Hall, a building he loved dearly, and, tragically, the building in which his life ended. building in which his life ended.



# Why I support Newsom

by Mike Sullivan

ith the November election behind ith the November election behind us, the LGBT community has a choice between two mayoral candidates in the December runoff – both young, both intelligent and articulate, and both honestly pursuing their visions of a better San Francisco. I will be voting for Gavin Newsom for mayor – and I will be joined in that choice by thousands of other LGBT voters in December. LGBT voters in December.

Here's why: LGBT civil rights. Supervisor Newsom has been with us on every important issue of LGBT civil rights. He voted for Tom Ammiano's domestic partners bill and for Mark Leno's transgender benefits legislation, campaigned against the Knight initia-tive, supports gay marriage, applauded the recent Supreme Court decision overturning the Texas sodomy law, and has supported San Francisco's LGBT Community Center and other LGBT/AIDS causes. Newsom has been a strong and consistent friend of our community, and will continue to do so

as mayor.

Bold leadership. My first memory of
Newsom's political leadership dates back to
1999. After the Muni meltdown of 1998 (remember that fiasco?), the grassroots group Rescue Muni grew rapidly out of frustration at the public transit disaster. Rescue Muni had a plan to reform public transit, but de-spite months of trying, they got nowhere with the Board of Supervisors – since the city's powerful transit unions opposed much of what Rescue Muni proposed. The reforms were about to die on the vine, when Supervisor Gavin Newsom stepped forward with what the SF Weekly described as an "enormously courageous act." Newsom approached Rescue Muni and volunteered to introduce the group's transit reforms, in

their entirety, at the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors. (He even endorsed his next paycheck to Rescue Muni.) The result? The logjam was broken, and ultimately a reform measure with most of Rescue Muni's wish-list was passed into law. My point? That Newsom is not afraid to be bold and

That Newsom is not afraid to be bold and take risks in advancing important reforms that make the city a better place.

Balanced philosophy; a positive campaign. San Francisco is a liberal Democratic town, and is best governed by a mayor who shares those values. Newsom is a card-carrying liberal Democrat on key social issues, whether it's abortion rights, gay and lesbian rights, envirights, gay and testian rights, environmental protection, affordable housing, or support for mass transit. At the same time, he has a balanced approach to economic development and the business community, especially small business. He has also constitute the temporated efforts. **Guest Opinion** sistently supported efforts to provide homeowner-

ship opportunities to renters, in a city with one of the lowest homeownership rates in

one of the lowest homeownership rates in the country. Newsom's balanced approach – socially liberal, but pragmatic – is just what San Francisco needs. And while Newsom's opponents have engaged in negative campaigns full of personal attacks, Newsom himself has stayed positive – focusing on his vision for a better San Francisco.

An environmental leader. Newsom has promoted legislation to support alternative fuels, reduce air pollution, eliminate toxic chemicals, and promote recycling. He has also been a strong supporter of the city's parks and urban forestry programs, and has a detailed "urban greening" plan to implement once he's in office. He's reached out to learn from other cities that have been suclearn from other cities that have been suc-cessful with similar programs – as just one example, he recently brought to San Fran-

cisco the head of Chicago's much-touted urban greening program as part of his "best practices" series to engage experts from

Homeless reform. San Francisco has paid Homeless reform. San Francisco has paid lip service to homeless reform for years, while hundreds of homeless continued to die on San Francisco's streets. Newsom was willing to challenge the status quo with the notion (now adopted even by his rivals) that it is better to provide real care to the homeless instead of the cash that is too often used to buy days and askabel. His Care Net. to buy drugs and alcohol. His Care Not Cash program represents long-overdue homeless reform – but even if you disagree, give Newsom credit for bold leadership in taking on one of the city's most intractable issues.

Pride in San Francisco. Most

of all, when I listen to Newsom talk about his vision of the city, I like what I hear. He talks

Og

about improving neighborhoods and planting trees, about landscaping street medians and other public spaces, about improving our schools, neighborhood parks and libraries, and making the streets clean and safe. He talks about economic development that will create good jobs, and about housing opportunities for middle-class San Franciscans. These things are all good in themselves, but together they are all good in themselves, but together they are about restoring of a sense of pride, spirit and confidence in San Francisco. I moved here 20 years ago because I knew that San Francisco was the best city in the country. Under the right leadership, it can be, again. That's why I enthusiastically support Gavin Newsom for mayor. ▼

Mike Sullivan is the chair of Plan C San Francisco. For information, visit www.plancsf.org.

### LETTERS

#### Gay leaders and the gay press

While the issues you bring up related to Cheryl Jacques's ascendance to the head of the community's largest national organization are troubling, her performance during this conference call with the gay

largest national-organization are troubling, her performance during this conference call with the gay press betrays an even larger problem ("A weak first impression," Editorial, November 6].

When I was the news editor of Outweek magazine from 1989-1991, I noticed a disturbingly dismissive attitude toward the gay press by the leaders of our own national organizations. On the whole, they expected us to print their press releases and sweep any dirt under the rug, while simultaneously treating us like second-class members of the Fourth Estate.

"A telephone press conference introducing Jacques opened with a curt statement that the group hoped to move things along as quickly as possible," reports the editor of New York's Gay City News. "Much of the rest of the session reinforced the sense that a press briefing was something the group had little time or patience for, and perhaps would just as soon have skipped."

I'm guessing things at Jacques's press briefing with the mainstream press weren't quite as curt.

Sadly, it looks like very little has changed in nearly 15 years. The leaders of our organizations must learn that the gay press is the most important tool they have for galvanizing their constituency nationwide, raising money. It's time they took their noses out of the asses of reporters at the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, and other papers which, on the whole, do their best to ignore our community, and started treating the gay press respectfully, instead of taking it for

munity, and started treating the gay press respectfully, instead of taking it for granted. Perhaps the reaction to Jacques's new job in gay and lesbian papers across the country will bring that point home to her.

Andrew Miller New York, New York

Mailstrom

#### Time to support Newsom

San Francisco is lucky to have such a dedicated and talented public official in Susan Leal. During her camtalented public official in Susan Leal. During her campaign for mayor, Susan ran on her personal and professional achievements, her management skills, and her ideas for making San Francisco a better place. She took the high road during a long and hard-fought campaign and made those of us who supported her very proud indeed. Her future remains bright.

Now it is time for Leal supporters to embrace Gavin Newsom for mayor. Gavin Newsom is the candidate who best reflects Susan's background in busis mess and management and her ability to work with

ness and management and her ability to work with many different people to get things done for San Franciscans. Newsom is well-prepared to lead San Francisco to a better future.

Bill Ambrunn

#### **Progressive for Newsom**

Progressive for Newsom

In his attempt to kiss up to progressive Democrats, many of whom he has repeatedly stabbed in the back, Matt Gonzalez very smoothly inquires "what values does Matt Gonzalez have that you do not share?" Let me suggest one, Mr. Gonzalez: your penchant for hypocrisy and deceit. You ran a slick and sleazy campaign distorting Tom Ammiano's record. In your infamous targeted mailer you also pounced on Angela Alioto just for being a millionaire when you yourself voted for millionaires Ralph Nader and Peter Cameio. the latter of whom impeded Cruz Bustamante's voted for millionaires Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo, the latter of whom impeded Cruz Bustamante's chances of becoming the first Latino governor since the 19th century. You have proven to be so duplicatous and untrustworthy that based on character issues alone, politics aside, you do not deserve to be anywhere near the mayor's office. Though I volunteered for both Tom and Angela in this campaign, I am now voting for Gavin Newsom. At least he doesn't backstab every friend and Democrat he can find.

Arthur Raoul Arroyo

#### Different scenarios

The mayoral election is not only about San Francisco's future but also about next year's presidential

Visualize this scenario: Next October, when polls show President George Bush could win California, he appears with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at a huge "American Values" rally at the Daly City Cow Palace. That same day, the Democratic Party and the Green Party tickets showcase their candidates in sep-

arate events downtown.

If Matt Gonzalez is mayor he will introduce Ralph Nader, who will excoriate both main parties and their candidates and say, once again, that there was no difference between the two in 2000, and there is no dif-

ference between the two in 2000, and there is no dif-ference now. Then Mayor Gonzalez will announce his full support for the Green Party ticket.

If Gavin Newsom is mayor he will introduce Howard Dean or Wesley Clark, who will call on us to mobilize everyone from center-to-left in a popular

front campaign to defeat right-wing Republicanism and all of its numerous allies. Then Mayor Newsom will announce his full support for the Democratic

As a San Franciscan, which scenario do you pre-fer?

John Mehring San Francisco

#### Vote went to Newsom

After the dismal November 4 election, it wasn't bad enough that one of our gay candidates lost, but two of our gay candidates lost their run for mayor. Why? I our gay candidates lost their run for mayor. Why? I took a good look at all the policies and the people working for all the major mayoral candidates, and I must say not even I could vote for either gay/lesbian candidate running for mayor. My vote went to Gavin Newsom for mayor for the following four reasons:

1. Proposition M is an idea whose time has come, especially if you are paying property taxes in San Francisco, or any tax for that matter. Our homeless matrix right now is not working.

2. Gavin Newsom's policies are not only well-written, but very thought-out in addressing many of the complex problems that face all San Franciscans.

3. Gavin Newsom has the best field staff working in District 8 I have ever seen since the days of Harvey Milk. Gavin's field director in District 8, a man named Joe Caruso,

in District 8, a man named Joe Caruso, and his staff are some of the hardest-working people in politics 1 have ever seen. And if you don't think so, just walk around District 8 and see how many Newsom signs there are.

4. When I asked Gavin a question at one of his house parties to which I was invited, he answered my question in full detail. That makes a great candidate, and I hope if Gavin Newsom becomes the next mayor of San Francisco he will do right by all San Franciscans.

San Francisco

#### 'Aggressive panhandling'?

Now with the passage of Proposition M, would it not be logical to presume that this law applies to churches passing collection plates and politicians having fundraisers, both being considered "aggressive personal line"?

Douglas A. Matley San Francisco

#### The 'invisible orientation'

As a bisexual, I hope that Prince Charles turns out to be bi, as rumored. And if he is, I hope he'll come out and embrace his identity.
Why do I suspect he's bi, and not 100 percent gay?
After all, he might have married Diana from a sense of

After all, he might have married Diana from a sense of royal duty, merely to produce heirs. But he also has had a mistress for many years (before, during, and after his disastrous marriage). Nobody pressured him to relate to her – indeed, most Brits disapproved. So I think he must really love her. — As a representative of bisexuals, Charles would be a mixed blessing. His unpopularity would increase, at least for a few years. But at least he might convince Brits that the "invisible orientation" really exists.

Tortuga Bi Liberty San Francisco

#### Halloween mayhem

Halloween mayhem

In your article on Halloween in your November 6 issue ["Castro Halloween raises \$41K"], you mentioned that the police reported one robbery. I know that there were at least two.

On Halloween night my camera was stolen. It was hanging from my wrist as I walked along Market Street with three other friends. Suddenly the thief came up behind me, grabbed my camera, pulled hard, breaking the strap and ran off. I gave chase, calling for help, but after a short distance I fell as I was in costume, and lost sight of the thief in the crowd.

When I found a police officer, she was sympathetic, telling me that someone else's camera had just been stolen half an hour before. She told me to go home and call the police non-emergency number to file a report. When I called the number the person who answered told me that if I wanted to make a report I had to go to Mission Station.

to go to Mission Station.

It seems that the organizers are busy congratulat-ing themselves on the safety of the event, but from the statistics I have seen, the number of arrests this year and last year differ only by six. The reason is not that there was less crime, but rather the police failed to

The fact that the police officer at the spot told me The fact that the police officer at the spot told me that she knew of another person whose camera was also stolen makes me wonder how many other robberies there were, and how accurate are the official numbers reported by the police? Are attempts being made to whitewash the event?

I have always loved Halloween, but for me, this was the worst Halloween ever.

Harold Yeo San Francisco

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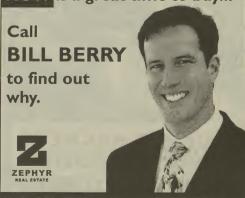
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## Thirty-seven

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

his year, it's 37.
I dearly wish I was simply talking about a birthday – or perhaps an anniversary – but no, 37 gains a different significance this year. It is the number of people that he have been reported. this year. It is the number of people that have been reportedly killed due to anti-transgender violence since November 20, 2002. Of those, 16 were murdered in the United States.

To put that into perspective, the average seating capacity in a cross-town bus is around 37. It's as many as three dozen eggs plus one, or six six-packs of one's fa-vorite beverage, with a spare can on the side. It's even seven hand-

on the stde. It's even seven hand-fuls of fingers, plus two. In short, it's not all that small of a number. Especially when one is counting deaths. People have been murdered in

People have been murdered in Italy, Canada, Guatemala, and Australia. Others have died within our own back yards. All because someone took issue with their gender identity or expression.

In the last 12 months, we've lost people like Nizah Morris, a Philadelphian who died in the hospital on Christmas

the hospital on Christmas Eve. We've witnessed the deaths of Bella Evangelista and En Spaulding, killed within days of each other in **Transmissions** 

Washington,
D.C. There have
even been deaths like Sindy Cuarda, killed almost one year to the date of Gwen Araujo's October 2002 murder, and only 30 or so

2002 murder, and only 30 or so miles apart.

Most recently, we lost a person on November 6, in West Oakland.
Each year since 1999, I've worked on the Day of Remembrance, doing what I can to bring attention to the issue of antitransgender violence. Yet every year I find I am the one being educated: every year brings with it new deaths, new—and sometimes uglier—circumstances, and a new idea of just how high the number of deaths can go. of deaths can go.

This is the highest number I've

seen in all the years I've been studying transgender murders. It's seven more deaths than all of last year, and 19 more than the year before. Each of these losses saddens me. To see how many we've gone through this year is nothing short of appalling.

Now I'm not going to try and tell you that the number of actual

deaths is increasing, because I couldn't say that and be 100 percent certain. As the transgender

has become more aware of these deaths – and because so many pass on such reports to me – I am very sure that a large part of the increase is based on in-creased vigi-

If that is the case, then one could also say this many deaths every year, and we're only now see-ing the extent of the prob-

of the prob-lem. One could also say that if we've missed so many killings in previous years, then there is probably even more than we're missing now. I don't doubt it.

now. I don't doubt it.

Yet, there is another possible cause to this increase. In order for me to hear about these stories, they need to be reported on.

I suspect that many of these would have never made the newspapers in years past, and would not have been as heavily covered as they are today.

today.

A case like that of Cinna-

mon Perry, killed this year in Houston, Texas, might not have ever made it into the media only a few short years ago. This year, it made it into the Houston Chronicle as well as the local television news. I don't think her death is the only one of those 37 that would have been skipped over by the media in year's past.

Even a case like the Gwen Arau-jo murder could have slipped through the cracks, or been but a

through the cracks, or been but a passing mention in the back of a local newspaper. Instead, it has generated more than 50 articles in one newspaper alone, with the trial still roughly four months away.

This is a good thing: many murderers know that if others remain vigilant, they will be less able to get away with their crime. The more the media actually reports on these cases, the more chance on these cases, the more chance that someone will end up behind

that someone will end up behind bars – and the more chance that others will think before they act, and lives will end up saved. Why is there more reporting going on today? The reason lies with the transgender community and its struggles to get transgen-der issues into the mainstream.

The media is paying attention be-cause they too have had their eyes opened by the community's ef-forts. Not the least of them, I say with pride, is the Transgender Day of Remembrance

More than this, the transgender community is now more willing to demand equal treatment. In 2003, transgender people gained rights from California to New York City, and efforts are already under way for more.

under way for more.

The first and most basic right is, of course, the right to exist.

So, yet again, across the country and world, transgender people are taking November 20 to remember 37 more we've lost this year. There will be memorials in San Francisco, candles lit in Boston, and gatherings from Australia to Italy.

Yet, while we will gather to re-

Yet, while we will gather to re-Yet, while we will gather to remember 37 deaths, we will know that there are many more people across the globe remembering all these deaths – and making a statement against anti-transgender violence by merely standing up tall and proud.

In doing so, we can take heart in one thing: the tide will turn, and there will come a time when it won't be 37 dead, but less and less until such tragedies will be behind us, and we can simply live

That is a goal I want to see achieved, and this is why I am involved with the Day of Remembrance: it's not only to remember these 37 we've lost – but for mil-lions more who will live. ▼

Gwen Smith is the founder of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. You can find her on the Web at

## Milk remembrance events begin



ongtime friends of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk, former Supervisor Harry Britt, left, and Dan Nicoletta. center, welcome Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk, to nepnew, Stuart MIIK, to the University of San Francisco's presentation of "25 Years: Remem-bering Harvey Milk" Monday, November 10. Events commemorating the late supervisor, who was murdered November 27, 1978, continue throughout the month, including the annual Milk Memorial March on Sunday, November 23

# **Democrat Newsom** faces Green Gonzalez in mayoral runoff

by Wayne Friday

egardless of which candidate wins the December 9 mayoral runoff election, one thing is certain – San Francis-co voters last week said goodbye to the city's political old guard. With the winners in the first round of mayoral voting last Tuesday being Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**, 36 and Board of Supervisor R Supervisor Gavin Newsom, 36, and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, 38, both candidates represent what most see as a new beginning in a city that has lost thousands of jobs, has a housing shortage with among the highest rents of any big city in the country, and is overrun by panhandlers and homelessness.



Gavin Newsom

Newsom, the front-runner from the beginning of a yearlong campaign that featured promi-nent, longtime San Francisco political names like Angela Alioto, Tom Ammiano, and Susan Leal, bested the second-place Gonzalez with the final vote giving Newsom a commanding lead of 42 percent to just under 20 percent for Gon-zalez. The November 4 results clearly make Newsom the early favorite to replace outgoing Mayor Willie Brown as the city's next chief executive.

Newsom, a moderate-to-liber-Newsom, a moderate-to-liber-al Democrat, also will clearly have the advantage of running in an overwhelming Democratic city against Gonzalez, who proudly touts his Green Party member-ship. Or, at least Gonzalez always seems to proudly boast of his Green Party membership when it benefits him; some say he at-tempts to downplay it at other times. Example: immediately after scoring his upset second-place win over longtime Democratic Party activists Alioto and Ammiano last week, Gonzalez appeared to be trying to minimize his Green Party affiliation when he was quoted in the San Francisco Examiner as saying, "I think it's important that we not allow the party thing to be a distraction." Obviously, Gonzalez hopes that voters will quickly forget that at the same time he was saying his reason for leaving the Democratic Party to become a Green Party member was because "I wanted to be independent of the Democratic local machine that frankly had done so much to ruin this city." A Party activists Alioto and Ammidone so much to ruin this city." A hell of a lot of Democratic voters on December 9 will not be forgetting that it was in large part the

fault of Gonzalez's Green party that tipped the political balance in enough states to give us **George W. Bush** as president over De-mocrat **Al Gore**.

So, what are the chances of the Green's Gonzalez defeating De-mocrat Newsom next month in this Democratic stronghold of San Francisco? I damned sure wouldn't bet the mortgage on it.

In the other race to be settled
December 9 – the runoff election

between challenger Kamala Harris and incumbent Terence Hallinan for district attorney – well, that one should be easy for all of us. No doubt that Harris, one of the brightest young women to seek office in the city in years, has it all going for her in this contest, de-

**Our Man Friday** spite placing a close second (in a three-person race) behind the incumbent Hallinan, but comfortably ahead of **Bill Fazio**, who had lost twice before to



Kamala Harris

Clearly, in a three-candidate Clearly, in a three-candidate contest, with incumbent Hallinan polling 36 percent of the vote, Harris getting 33 percent, and Fazio taking 30 percent, it means that nearly 64 percent of those casting ballots were voting for change. In a one-on-one contest with Hallinan on December 9, Harris should clearly be able to pick up enough of those 30 percent of the property of the proper pick up enough of those 30 percent who voted Fazio to take out Hallinan, and what a refreshing difference that would make in an office that has become an embar-

office that has become an embar-rassment to this city.

Gavin Newsom, a bright, young entrepreneur who has a strong pro-gay civil rights record as our next mayor, and Kamala Harris, a young woman who is just what the city needs to replace the embarrassing Hallinan as district attorney. Want to help these two young candidates out in the runoff campaign? Call Newsom for Mayor at (415) 359-0230, Harris for District Attorney at (415)

#### Politics and people

Quick fact: Supervisor Bevan
Dufty's District 8 (Castro, Noe
Valley, Diamond Heights, Glen
Park) had the highest number of
voters in last week's election of
any of the 11 supervisorial districts 30 311 wates were ast in the tricts; 30,311 votes were cast in the district, according to unofficial returns from the Department of

Though nearly 60 percent of San Francisco voters last week voted in favor of Proposition M, the anti-panhandling measure, the anti-panhandling measure, opponents of the plan are promising it will face a legal challenge in the courts. Proposition M would tighten the city's law against aggressive solicitation by prohibiting panhandling near ATM machines, in parking lots, and on public transit, median strips, and off-ramps.

sist, median strips, and off-ramps.
Also, San Francisco voters clearly showed they want to push paychecks above the poverty line when they approved Proposition L by a decisive 59 percent to 41

percent to 41 percent vote. Proposition L

makes San Francisco the first city in California and the third in the nation to set its own minimum wage. San Francisco voters overwhelmingly backed the ballot measure that hikes the city's hourly minimum wage to \$8.50 – well above the state minimum of \$6.75 and far above the federal minimum of \$5.15. This measure, too, will like-35.15. This measure, too, will likely face a court challenge, particularly from those in the city's restaurant industry, who say they are still reeling from the Bush economic downturn.

nomic downturn.

Oops: Last week's column erroneously listed the date for the Log Cabin Republicans' annual dinner. The San Francisco chapter of the group will host the dinner of the group will not the diffier this Saturday, November 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 480 Sutter Street. San Diego County District Attorney **Bonnie Dumanis**, a les-Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, a les-bian Republican, will be the guest speaker. For tix and info, call **Paul Lynd** at (415) 765-5826. In other elections last week, vot-

ers in the Cleveland, Ohio suburb of Cleveland Heights (pop. 52,000) voted to become the first city in the nation to give recognition to gay and straight unmarried partners. Partners will receive a document saying they have committed to each other, which they can use to share employment benefits, inherit property, and visit each other in hospitals that admit only family.

In Vallejo, California, longtime gay rights activist Gary Cloutier was easily re-elected to a city

In Palm Springs, California, City Council member **Ron Oden** defeated longtime incumbent Mayor **Will Kleindienst**, and Oden will become that city's first openly gay and African American

Ginny Foat, a longtime lesbian activist who once served as president of California NOW (National Organization for Women), won a seat on the five-member Palm Springs council. Nationally, Republicans gained

two governorships when they took control from Democrats in took control from Democrats in both Mississippi and Kentucky, but it wasn't all bad news for Democrats as they kept the mayoral offices in Philadelphia and Indianapolis, which had been expected to go Republican.

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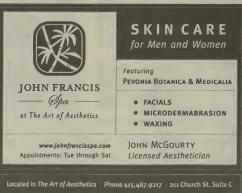
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## **DIFFA hosts 'Dining** by Design' next week

by Cynthia Laird

uests will enjoy a catered din-ner while seated at some of ner while seated at some of the most creative tables in town when DIFFA hosts "Elle Decor's Dining by Design" Thurs-day, November 20 in San Francisco. DIFFA, the Design Industries

Foundation Fighting AIDS, is teaming up with Champagne Taittinger for the event, which brings together the talents of de-signers from every field – architecture, interiors, furniture, fashion, food, floral, graphic, land-scape, and retail – to create extraordinary, lavish, romantic, and whimsical dining tabletops and environments.

Proceeds from the event bene-Proceeds from the event bene-fit the Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital, an affiliate of the University of California, San Francisco's AIDS

Research Institute.
Guests will enjoy a reception and silent auction, a seated dinner – catered by McCall Catering – at the designer tables, sweet treats at the Champagne Taittinger Bubble Blast Dessert Party, and dancing. Table-hopping is encouraged, organizers said.

Since its founding in 1984,

DIFFA has mobilized the re-DIFFA has mobilized the resources of the design community to provide more than \$31 million to hundreds of AIDS organizations nationwide.

Individual tickets are \$300 for Individual tickets are \$300 for the reception, dinner, and dessert party, which runs from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, and \$50 for the dessert party, which starts at 9 p.m. The event takes place at the San Francisco Design Centers' Concourse Exhibition Hall, located at 7th Street and Brannan in the South of Market District.

For more information, visit www.diffa.org. To purchase tickets, call (415) 597-8164. ▼

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### S. Africa's Achmat to appear in Oakland

by John Iversen

ay Area residents will have the opportunity to see and hear one of the world's most important gay rights and AIDS activists, Zackie Achmat, this Monday night in Oakland.

Achmat has been called "the Gandhi of AIDS" by the New Yorke Times. New Yorker magazine has dubbed him "the most significant protest leader in South Africa since Mandela." Time magazine's international edition honored international edition honored Achmat as one of the world's 50 heroes last year.

One organization he founded, South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign, received the 2003 Nel-son Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights.

and Human Rights.

An audacious activist, Achmat gained worldwide attention for his refusal to take AIDS treatments until the South African government guaranteed such treatments to all in need. His medicinal strike began in 1999 and continued until August 5, 2003 when he finally relented to requests by TAC, his doctors, friends, relatives, and Nelson Mandela himself to begin treatment because of his seriously declining health. Three days after declining health. Three days after

Achmat's announcement, the South African government also relented and promised to provide AIDS treatments to all citizens who need them.

who need them.
Growing up in a "colored" (the South African term for mixed racial ancestry) family of trade union activists, Achmat, now 41, was appalled by the treatment of black workers under the South African apartheid system. In the 1970s schools were boycotted-many times to protest apartheid. Achmat noticed that his "colored" schoolmates would return to their schoolmates would return to their school before the blacks. To reme

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## **Most Holy Redeemer awardees**



Recipients of Most Holy Redeemer's AIDS Support Group In-kindness Awards were, from left: Stephen Follansbee, HIV medical director, representing Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco; Nanette Lee Miller, a parish member and longtime board activist; and AI Baum, a community member and supporter of numerous local AIDS service organizations. The event was held November 9. MHR's AIDS Support Group is celebrating 19 years of service to people living with AIDS.

# **Bank robbery suspect** foiled by security guard



Surveillance photo of bank rob-

#### by Ed Walsh

an Francisco Police say they think the same man is responsible for the robbery and the attempted robbery of two banks in the Castro over the past

The most recent incident hap-pened last Friday, November 7, at the Citibank located at 444 Castro Street. The suspect allegedly handed a note to a teller demanding money but was scared off after a security officer and a bank manager became aware of the robbery, according to San Francisco Police Inspector Dan Gardner.

Inspector Dan Gardner.

The same suspect successfully robbed the US Bank located at 443 Castro Street just over a week earlier, on Thursday, October 30, according to Gardener, Police also believe the suspect tried to rob the United Commercial Bank located at 711 Van Ness Avenue on November 6, a day before he allegedly hit the Citibank.

He's described as a thin white

He's described as a thin white male in his late 20s to early 30s. Police say he has not produced a weapon in any of his alleged crimes.

# Oakland medical pot club robbed

by Ed Walsh

akland Police are looking for four to five men wearing ski masks who stormed a medical marijuana club last week-end, robbing the club of an undis-

closed amount of money and pot.
Police were called to the Compassionate Caregivers Club located at 1740 Telegraph Avenue at 8:09 a.m. on Sunday, November 9. According to the Oakland Tribune, the men tied up a bouncer outside the club before making their way to the club on the top

their way to the club on the top floor of a three-story building.

No one in the club was hurt but just after the robbery police checked area hospitals after being told that a club employee or customer threw a cinder block at one of the suspects. Police blanketed the area just after the incident but were unable to turn up the suspects. were unable to turn up the suspects who were believed to have left the scene in a pickup truck, possibly with a camper shell.

A man who answered the phone at the club, before abruptly hanging up, told the Bay Area Re-porter. "We're fine. A lot of what's

been reported in the news has been exaggerated. If you want any information, call the police."

The club is near Oakland's Broadway auto row and the area is sometimes referred to as "Oakster-dum" heaven of the meritimes are dam" because of the marijuana-related clubs and businesses that have sprouted up in the area.

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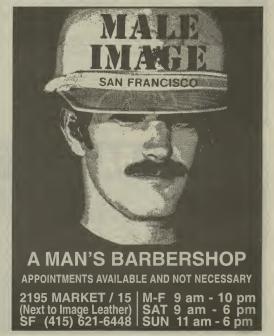
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# **Fundraiser** aims to break silence over hep B

by Matthew S. Bajko

hile hepatitis B has long been a scourge on Asian American hile hepatitis B has long been a scourge on Asian Americans, many in the health field are unaware of this "silent killer." Doctors do not know to screen their Asian pa-tients for the disease, and health officials at times do not stress to APIs the importance of being vac-cinated

Such ignorance can have dire consequences, as Joel Engardio discovered in August 2000 when his partner at the time, Dr. Mark Lim, had to be rushed to the emergency room. Unbeknownst to both Joel and Mark, Lim's liver was peppered with cancerous le-sions that were so severe they were untreatable.

Twelve months later, Lim passed away. He was only 31.

"He went to medical school at some of the best medical schools in the country but trained under a Caucasian model of medicine. He fell through the cracks," said Engardio. "If he can fall through the cracks, what does it say for all the Asian Americans who aren't doctors? The fatal flaw was the medical training didn't emphasis unique circumstances for certain communities.

The last year of his life, Lim served as a spokesman for the Jade Ribbon Campaign, an effort launched by a Stanford University to the Action

launched by a Stanford University professor to educate the Asian community about the need to screen for and be vaccinated against hepatitis A and B.

"One of Mark's greatest regrets as a doctor in a primarily Asian area, he had many Asian patients and he was unable to direct them to this information because he didn't know it himself," said Engardio. "I think an important message to get across is if you are gay you have to be vigilant about things like HIV for instance. Clearly it is still a problem.

"But as Mark would want to get across, if you are gay and Asian you need to worry about HIV and hep B."

San Francisco-based Noodle

San Francisco-based Noodle San Francisco-based Noodle magazine, a gay Asian Pacific American lifestyle and current events quarterly, is helping to spread Lim's message. Last year it featured Lim's story in its fall edition, and this year it is sponsoring a fundraiser to support the Jade Ribbon Campaign.

The event will bring the stars behind the 1993 smash hit indie film The Wedding Banquet to a 10th anniversary showing of the movie in San Francisco. Oscarwinning director Ang Lee, actress

winning director Ang Lee, actress



Joel Engardio, left, with his late partner, Dr. Mark Lim

May Chin, and actor Mitchell Lichtenstein are all scheduled to appear at the November 20 event at San Francisco's historic Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Proceeds will benefit Stanford

University Asian Liver Center's Jade Ribbon Campaign and its ef-forts informing the APA commu-nity about their heightened risk for hepatitis B infection and liver cancer. Along with an exclusive screening of the film, dinner, and post-movie reception, the cast of the stage adaptation of the film, The Wedding Banquet: The Musical, will perform songs from the

show.

The movie and stage production follow the story of a gay couple trying to obscure their relationship from traditional Chinese parents by setting up a sham wedding. At the time of its release, it broke new ground with its honest and humorous portrayal of issues related to race, culture, and sexual orientation

Ten years later, the story of the film's actors resonates with the aim of the Jade Ribbon Campaign. Chin and Sihung Lung, two of the lead actors in the film, were diagnosed with liver cancer caused by chronic hepatitis B. Lung, a well-known actor in Asia who played the father in the film as well as in Lee's Eat Drink Man Woman, died from liver cancer last year. Chin, who played the bride, has seen her liver cancer go into remission

The organizers of the event hope to use the star power of Chin and Lee to draw attention to the disease. Health officials estimate that 10 percent of Asian Americans have chronic hepatitis B and don't know it. Of those, a quarter will die from liver cancer or fail-ure if left untreated.

The San Francisco Bay Area, with a population that is over 20 percent Asian Pacific Islander, has the highest rate of liver cancer in the United States. One San Fran-cisco study of gay API men found that 28 percent were chronically infected with hep B.

"It is a humongous problem," said Dr. Samuel So, a professor of surgery at Stanford University and director of the Asian Liver Center and Liver Cancer Program. Hep B is called a silent killer

because many people who are in-fected show no signs of the disease until it is too late. It can lead to fatal liver cancer and complicates treatment for those people who are also infected with HIV. Many

Asians contract the disease from their mothers at birth, while others become infected through sexual intercourse.

ual intercourse.

"Whether gay or straight, everybody should be vaccinated against hep B. And the gay community has a higher risk of and higher incidence of chronic hep B, even if not Asian," said So.

So created his center in 1996 to address the graying nublic health

address this growing public health crisis. Through its Jade Ribbon Campaign, the center promotes hep A and B vaccinations within Asian communities. His center also helps to fill a vacuum created by the Centers for Disease Control

by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has not made hep B a priority.

"The CDC is limited in what they can do. They don't have a lot of funding allocated to hep B prevention," said So. "I know of people in the CDC who would love to below proces but they used too," however. help more but they just don't have

the funding."

So's center also has limited funding and its Jade Ribbon campaign, which began in May 2001, receives no financial support from Stanford. Apart from a small award from the CDC, the center

award from the CDC, the center relies on community support to raise the \$500,000 it costs to annually operate the program.

"In just less than three years we have really made a lot of progress in terms of having the campaign spread throughout California as well as slowly going across the country," said So.

The fundraiser is the liver cen-

The fundraiser is the liver cen-ter's first major event targeted at a gay audience, So said.

"We want to work more close-

"We want to work more closely with the gay community on these health issues, especially those affecting the Asian community. And I think that there is no reason why our fight against hep B could not, it should go hand in hand with our fight against HIV," said So. "This is particularly relevant in the Asian community. Some Asians don't like to talk about HIV. So actually we can approach the subject of HIV prevention while we are educating them about hep B prevention."

Other groups are also joining in the effort to promote awareness and prevention of hep B. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association met with CDC officials this summer to address concerns about he

mer to address concerns about he-

Tri D. Do, a GLMA board member and researcher at the Center for AIDS Prevention Stud-

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# **General's promotion** delayed; naval graduates seek alumni group

by Bob Roehr

he promotion of controver-sial General Robert T. Clark is on hold again. The nomi-nation was reported out of the Senate Armed Services Committee on a voice vote in late October. It had been in limbo for more than a year because of his role as commander of Fort Campbell, Kentucky when Private First Class Barry Winchell was murdered in a 1999 antigay incident.

Now an unnamed senator has placed a hold on the nomination, which has the procedural effect of preventing a vote on Clark's pro-

motion.

Three Democratic members of the Armed Services Committee – Senators Daniel Akaka (Hawaii), Hillary Clinton (New York), and Ted Kennedy (Massachusetts) – had asked that their opposition to Clark's nomination be recorded for the record within the committee. However, they have denied placing

the hold on the nomination.
In return, an anonymous Reon all pending military promo-tions. It is part of the very high level of partisan acrimony that has enveloped Capitol Hill and all pending legislation in the waning days of this session of Congress. Servicemembers Legal Defense

Network Executive Director C Dixon Osburn continues to express the view that Clark's record "does not merit approval by the full Senate." Most observers believe that the hold is temporary and Clark will be approved before Congress adjourns for the year.

#### Academy petitioned

On Veterans Day, 30 miles to the east at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, gradu-ates petitioned to establish the first gay and lesbian alumni asso-ciation for a military service acad-emy. It would be called USNA

Jeff Petrie, a 1989 graduate of the academy and now retired from the Navy, has assembled a group of 29 fellow graduates as part of the effort. All are retired officers because those who are on active duty would run the risk of being kicked out under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He expects that some active duty officers will join anonymously.

A Service Academy Gay and Lesbian Association was formed Jeff Petrie, a 1989 graduate of

A Service Academy Gay and Lesbian Association was formed in 1991 within the broader GALA structure of gay alumni groups. It

draws about 150 members from the five service academies, though it is not recognized by any of those

believe one of the most "I believe one of the most helpful actions we can take for the schools we still love is to lend our wealth of various experiences to an eventual Naval Academy effort directed toward better integrating gay students," Petrie said. He now lives in San Francisco. A spokesman for the USNA alumni association said the request

alumni association said the request would be forwarded to the board of directors for consideration.

of directors for consideration.

In New Jersey, federal Judge
John C. Lifland ruled on motions
in a trial challenging the Solomon
Amendment. That legislation empowers the secretary of defense to
deny federal funds to colleges and
universities that do not allow
ROTC or military recruiters on
campus.

Lifland denied the govern-ment's motion to dismiss the case but he also denied the plaintiff's request to issue an injunction prohibiting enforcement of the legisinditing enforcement of the legislation pending the outcome of the trial. He said, "The presence of the military on campus does not significantly intrude upon the law schools' ability to express their views."

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### **Fundraiser**

previous page

ies, presented the findings of the San Francisco study and helped to draft recommendations on what the CDC can do to help.

the CDC can do to help.

"People were pretty alarmed by it," Do said of the response his presentation received. "I don't think there is much awareness on how high of an epidemic this is among APIs and API [men who have sex with men] in particular," said Do. "We are raising more awareness just by talking about it." But more work still needs to be done. Do said his partner switched physicians recently because his doctor, who is white, did not believe he was at risk for he-

not believe he was at risk for he-

"My partner is Japanese and asked to be tested for hep B and was refused by his physician. After he said his partner does policy work on this, they still didn't think he was at high risk," said Do. "I

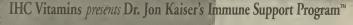
is very angry." Before his death, Lim tried to educate other doctors about he-patitis and its impact on the Asian community. Engardio said he still speaks out on hepatitis prevention in the hope Lim's story will save

another young Asian man from being taken too soon.

"He died so young. At times I think 'what a waste,' to have spent so much time in medical school and he didn't get to save lives as a doctor," he said. "But if you look at it another way, he continues to save lives to the same lives as a doctor," the said. "But if you look at it another way, he continues to save lives because his story saves lives. So that is some consolation."

Tickets to "The Wedding Ban-

Tickets to "The Wedding Banquet: Tenth Anniversary" show are now available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400. Tickets priced at \$100, \$75, and \$50 include an early dinner reception (6:30-7:45 p.m.) and a post-screening reception at the Green Room. Tickets for \$35 are available for the screening only All able for the screening only. All proceeds raised will go to the Jade Ribbon Campaign.



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## Georgia and Methodist home agree to no faith-based discriminati

by Bob Roehr

he state of Georgia will not he state of Georgia will not fund social service programs by religious groups that dis-criminate against their clients, and the United Methodist Children's Home has declared it will not dis-criminate in hiring on the basis of religion or sexual orientation. Lambda Legal Defense and Ed-ucation Fund announced the set-tlement of the case formally

tlement of the case formally known as Bellmore v. the United Methodist Children's Home and the Methodist Children's Home and the State of Georgia, in Washington, D.C. on November 5. It came at a conference that focused on faithbased social service provision under charitable choice.

"This sits at the center of the ongoing public debate about tax-payer funding of religious organizations that provide social services," said Michael Adams, director of education and public affairs at Lambda Legal.

at Lambda Legal.

"We believe as a matter of both public policy and constitutional law that tax dollars cannot be used to fund religious discrimination against either employers or social service clients," he said.

Government has long funded social programs run by groups such as the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities, said Adams. But "they have performed essentially secular services and have been bound by the same kinds of

[In San Francisco, the Salvation Army gave up its city con-tracts several years ago rather than comply with the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance, which requires contractors to offer em-ployees domestic partner health benefits equal to those provided to

Debate about "charitable choice" has intensified under the Bush administration that strongly supports such activities by faith-based organizations (FBOs).

faith-based organizations (FBOs). In this Georgia case, Aimee Bellmore went to work as a psychological counselor for young people at the United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur, Georgia. She has a decade of experience in the field and reportedly did a great job. But when the home learned that she was a lesbian sharing a residence with her partner. it ing a residence with her partner, it fired her, based on its religious beliefs on homosexuality.

liefs on homosexuality.

The home advertised for a replacement and during the interview of an extremely well qualified candidate, Alan Yorker, it learned he was Jewish. The Home told Yorker that "they would not hire people of his faith," said Susan Sommer, the attorney for Lambda on this case.

Lambda on this case.
Ironically, Yorker's grandfather
had suffered anti-Semitic discrimination in the early part of the 20th

ily name, which was commonly as-sociated with being Jewish, so that future generations would be judged on merit and not on the

basis of their religious beliefs.

Adams said that Georgia had agreed to terms about two weeks ago and the Methodist home only

In its settlement the Georgia Department of Human Resources stated: "All services provided by parties contracting with, funded in with service providers to establish guidelines and provide training on reasonable accommodations for

reasonable accommodations for clients to exercise their faith and to participate in GLBT activities. While the home has agreed not to discriminate on the basis of both religion and sexual orientation in terms of both employment and serving clients, Georgia has agreed to only the latter, largely because its lawyers believe that existing state law protects clients from discrimination on the basis

Debate about "charitable choice" has intensified under the **Bush administration that strongly** supports such activities by faithbased organizations (FBOs).

whole or in part by, or acting on behalf of [the department] ... shall be performed without discrimination or harassment based on ... sexu orientation, or HIV/AIDS status.

Bellmore said the outcome is "important for these kids that I've been working with ... to ensure the ethical support and protection for GLBT young in group homes and the foster care system." She called it "a battle, one in a series of many that need to be fought."

Sommer was very encouraged by the fact that the state is working

of sexual orientation, but the law force contractors to do so on mat-

This points to the need to enact legislation at both the state and federal levels that provides employment protection for gays,

Sommer was aware of other cases dealing with FBO discrimination against gays, but Lambda is not involved with them. She said this settlement "should help show how one state agency has come to terms with the claims, and how we were able to work out a solution through a positive dialogue

#### Conference

The Bush administration has been pushing the idea that faith-based organizations can do a bet-ter job of administering social ser-vices programs, but limited re-search has not proved this to be

The Rockefeller Foundation The Rocketeller Foundation funded the first such studies in the field and held a conference in Washington, D.C. on November 5 for researchers to discuss their findings. The studies looked at the effect of an early version of those types of programs, Section 104 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, part of welfare reform.

Laura Jensen, a professor of

political science at the University of Massachusetts, said officials in that state "continue to interpret Section 104 simply to guarantee religious organizations a right to compete for social service concompete for social service contracts... In their view, Massachusetts was committed to a level playing field with respect to FBOs and social service contracting well before Section 104 was even proposed, let alone enacted."

Furthermore, "The discovery that many priests had sexually abused children and other vulnerable individuals for decades while church officials lied and covered

church officials lied and covered trust in religious authorities along with Massachusetts Catholics and non-Catholics alike."

"States do not monitor for constitutional violations, and they do very little to educate contracdo very fitue to educate contrac-tors about constitutional compli-ance" so as not to violate provi-sions of separation of church and state, said Sheila Suess Kennedy. She is a professor at the University of Indiana-Purdue University Indianapolis and principle investigator of a study of that state's

Kennedy found that "strongly faith-based providers tend to be small and are more likely to incor-porate religion in service delivery. They reported more clients who participated in voluntary religious activity, and also more clients who had 'issues' with religion and reli-gious content."

The Indiana study found similar rates of success with FBO and secular programs when they looked at the key outcome of job placement. "However, FBO placements were less likely to get fulltime employment – that is, they got fewer hours of work per week—and [were] significantly less likely to receive health insurance or other benefits." They hope to receive funding to try to understand why. Kennedy said that most of the religious groups they interviewed believe that "they ought be held to the same [professional] standards" as non-religious groups in The Indiana study found simil-

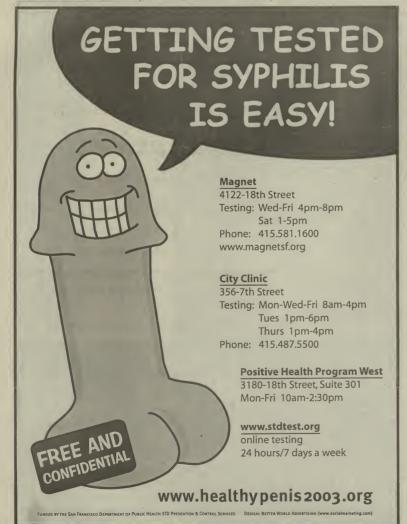
dards" as non-religious groups in providing services. A significant portion have decided not to accept government funds because of the limits they impose on includ-ing faith-based messages within their services.

Depression is a medical condition that may cause feelings of sadness, worthlessness and helplessness, as well as loss of interest or pleasure in activities which were formerly enjoyable. This disorder is often treatable, but unfortunately many of the medications that are used to treat depression can cause sexual dysfunction as well as other side effects. As part of the search for better medications, Dr. Robert Dolgoff and colleagues at Berkeley Therapy Institute are conducting a study of an investigational drug, a marketed product, and placebo in patients suffering from moderate to severe depression. You may qualify for this study if you meet the following criteria:

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# Gay groups wait for Schwarzenegger

by Matthew S. Bajko

ith his swearing-in ceremony set to take place Monday, November 17, Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger remains an enig-ma on where he truly stands on gay rights. While he has reached out to gay Republicans, he has given gay Democrats a cold shoul-

given gay Democrats a cold shoulder since being elected to replace recalled Governor Gray Davis.

A month after the legislature's LGBT Caucus requested a sitdown with him, Schwarzenegger has yet to respond. Formed in June 2002 and comprised of the five openly, gay legislature, the five openly gay legislators, the LGBT Caucus members are all

"Both the caucus and I have made requests for meetings but we have not heard back yet. We made the requests immediately after his victory a month ago," said

Francisco) this week.

While Log Cabin California, a gay Republican club, also has yet to meet with the governor-elect, the group's chairman, along with the presidents of several local chapters, have been invited to Monday's swearing-in. Jeff Bissiri, the statewide chairman of the group, said he has had communication with Schwarzenegger's chief of staff Patricia Clarey and expects to have a meeting some-

He said they have not scheduled the meeting to date because, "they are still selecting the gover-nor's 'U' – his chief advisers, his

He also said several Log Cabin members have applied for posi-tions in the new administration and expects an announcement soon of an openly gay staff mem-

ber.
"Since the election they have

had their hands full. He has got to appoint an entire government and has a month to do it," said Bissiri, has a month to do it," said Bissiri, who briefly met Schwarzenegger during the campaign and shook his hand. "They have this gigantic looming fiscal crisis. He has a lot on his plate. Having said that there are some looming issues important to the gay community. The governor has got to take leadership in supporting AB205 and we would expect him to do that. Certainly that would be consistent with everything he said. His stated with everything he said. His stated policy is of support for no dis-crimination of gays and lesbians based on their relationships."

Leno, who was elected this month to chair the LGBT Caucus, said his main focus will be desaid in main focus will be de-fending AB205, the historic do-mestic partner rights and respon-sibilities legislation that Davis signed into law. The bill is set to go into effect in January 2005 and would elevate domestic partnerships to a level on par with Ver-

mont's civil unions.

But Republicans and conserv ative groups are trying to repeal the measure both in the courts and at the ballot box. The Camand at the ballot box. The Campaign for California Families, a right-wing lobbying group, is suing to have the law overturned, arguing that granting same-sex couples the same rights and privileges as married couples violates the state's Defense of Marriage Act Proposition 22 was passed by Act. Proposition 22 was passed by voters in 2000 and defines marriage as only between a man and a

Supporters of the bill have long argued that AB205 does not vio-late the DOMA and that the law does not allow same-sex couples to marry. As the case moves its way through the courts, it could hamper implementation of the

"The lawsuits are moving slowly. We don't expect much to come of this, though it could pos-sibly slow down the implementa-

tion of AB205," said Leno. "There are steps that need to be taken be-tween now and 2005. The secre-tary of state needs to notify every domestic partnership throughout the state to inform them AB205 carries responsibilities that they may not be aware of. If the refer-endum qualifies, all of that is put on hold."

The backers of the referendum to repeal the bill claim to have gathered 150,000 signatures already. They hope to place it on the March 2004 ballot and need only 375,000 signatures by December

375,000 signatures by December 21. To achieve that standard, and ensure the signatures are valid, they need to collect roughly 600,000 signatures.

"If they don't have them submitted by the first week in December it is likely that the measure would not qualify for the March 2004 ballot and could be on the November 2004 ballot," said Leno.

The LGBT Caucus is working with Equality for California Fampage 19

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### **Gay votes**

**◄** page 1

reached out this time."

Although the Alice Club does disagree with Newsom on his disagree with rewishin on his stance against panhandling, hav-ing come out against his anti-pan-handling measure Proposition M, club co-chair Rich Kowalewski said the members overwhelmingly

said the members overwhelmingly voted to give Newsom their support during a meeting Monday night. The vote was 105 for Newsom and 10 for no endorsement.

Comparing Newsom's positions to Leal's stances, Kowalewski said, "I think they match up well. They are both socially progressive on most issues and sup-port growing the economy of San Francisco and creating new op-portunities and jobs. Probably the one area they didn't have the same

commitment was on homeless-ness and panhandling.

"Susan was a perfect fit and Gavin is a good fit for Alice," he

The local Log Cabin club, a group of gay Republicans, is also expected to announce its support for Newsom. The club had endorsed Republican Tony Ribera, a former police chief, during the general election, with Newsom coming in second place. "My suspicion is it will be Newsom," said Chris Bowman,

the club's secretary, who explained the five-member board will announce its decision at its upcom nounce its decision at its upcom-ing dinner banquet Saturday. "Newsom was a strong second choice for the members when we voted back in July or August."

#### **Dufty** endorses

The LGBT groups join District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty in endorsing Newsom in the runoff. After sitting out making an endorsement in the general election, the openly gay Dufty announced last week his support for Newsom in the December runoff.

Due to bis longtime friendship

Due to his longtime friendship with Leal, who placed fifth in the race, and Newsom's support when Dufty ran for office in the fall of 2002, Dufty had decided not to make an endorsement prior to the November election. But two days after the vote on November 4, he

made his decision loud and clear.
"I am honored to be the first declared Dufty outside the chil-declared Dufty outside the chil-dren's clothing store Small Frys in Noe Valley. "He is a true San Fran-ciscan. Gavin Newsom is the person I want to lead San Francisco."

Dufty said he believes as

mayor, Newsom would be a boon to families, including gay and les-bian families with children, ensuring they could afford to live and raise their kids in the city. He also praised Newsom for running a positive campaign, something Dufty strove to do during his su-

pervisorial race.
"I have never seen a political season so marred by a singular focus to attack a person at every turn and politicize a city," said Dufty, "Let's keep it positive the post five weeks."

Joining Dufty in endorsing Newsom were Jeff Sheehy, past president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Audrey Joseph, a member of the city's En-Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, an out lesbian; and former Supervisor Leslie Katz. Katz, an out les-bian, praised Newsom for helping her pass gay legislation when she served on the board.

served on the board.

"He always impressed me in how he could look at problems from a myriad of angles and solve problems. That is what San Francisco needs: a problem solver," said Katz. "He was continually helpful with the equal benefits ordinance and worked with me on countless other issues." countless other issues

countless other issues."
Newsom thanked the community leaders for their endorsements, stating he expected he would widen his base of support in the coming weeks. His aim, he said, was to reach out to all of the city's various communities and city's various communities and

neighborhoods.

"It's not lost on me or lost on or to store on the or lost on you that everyone around the world is focused on differences, which is fueling terror. And here we are in San Francisco celebrating them," said Newsom. "The support I have received in the last seven and a half years from the GLBT community has been overwhelming. Support in the gay.

GLBT community has been over-whelming. Support in the gay community is critical."
Supporting Gonzalez in the runoff are the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. Both groups voted to endorse Tom Am-miano in the general election.
GAPA's board unanimously voted to endorse Gonzalez this

voted to endorse Gonzalez this

week.
"Our board selected Matt be-cause we strongly feel he shares our mission, vision, and core val-ues," said a statement from Richard Lung, GAPA's new politi-cal awareness committee chair.

"We are confident that he will do everything possible to promote and support gay API visibility in San Francisco."

San Francisco."

The Milk Club voted Tuesday night to support Gonzalez after 60 percent of the 75 people present opted to go with the Green Party member. The decision came after two hours of strong debate, said Milk Club President Robert Haaland.

"It was definitely a long meeting. There was a very long, and I felt, important discussion that needed to happen in the club. Varieties of the state ious views were expressed on the mayor's race," said Haaland. "It is fair to say there was strong sup-port for Matt within the club and they made their case for why the club should endorse Matt."

Some in the club reportedly felt there should be no endorsement in the runoff, with Gonzalez's voting against a settlement Haaland reached with the city over allegations of police harassment causing some members to push for the no endorsement. Haaland said he did not view the vote as reason to hold up supporting Gonzalez.

"Personally, I didn't see that as a factor as to why the PAC [political action committee] wouldn't give this endorsement. There were a variety of feelings expressed but they didn't center around that," he

The Milk Club's PAC had voted for no endorsement, but was overruled by the membership vote Tuesday.

While some members are still hurting from Ammiano's defeat in the election, Haaland said the club will be an enthusiastic supporter

for Gonzalez.

"I think it is fair to say some are still heartbroken, myself included. But the membership made a decision and it is time to move the program," said Haaland. "I think both Alice and Milk endorsed other candidates in the general election, so obviously we are in a situation where our first choice didn't prevail. We are in a new context and I think both groups are doing the best they can to figure out what is the best thing to do. We came out on different

to figure out what is the best thing to do. We came out on different sides of the equation."

Neither Leal or Ammiano has yet to state publicly who they are supporting in the runoff. On election night, Leal said she would confer with her supporters, including the female members of the Board of Supervisors, and make an announcement next make an announcement next week at the earliest. ▼



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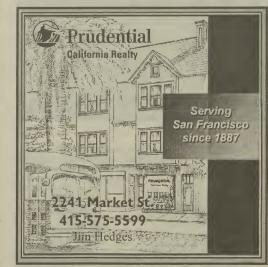
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## Chicago showdown

### Montreal, federation battle over Gay Games

by Jim Provenzano

he battle for Gay Games VII has resulted in an impasse between the Federation of Gay Games and Montreal 2006, the host committee, at the federation's annual meeting, held last

week in Chicago.

By Monday, November 10,
Montreal representatives released
a statement calling November 10,
"a day of mourning," and that
their disputes with the federation
were beyond reason.

"The federation will take away
Montreal 2006's right to host Gay
Games VII in 2006. We realize
now that it is time to break with
the past and with an organization
that ultimately represents little
more than itself, with only 21 of
the 1,000 sports teams around the the 1,000 sports teams around the

Negotiations over contracts, budgets, and registration limits have led to harsh disagreements between the winning bid city and the governing body of the qua-drennial GLBT sports event. Fed-eration officials demanded that Montreal education represed as Montreal reduce its proposed registration 11,000 participants.

Montreal reduced its estimates from 24,000 to 16,000, but said that to go any lower would affect a successful financial plan.

The negotiations, usually conducted privately, have become public in GLBT and mainstream publications worldwide. The dis-cord will result in Montreal hosting a gay sports event that is not the official Gay Games, leaving the federation to decide which alternate city will host Gay Games VII. Atlanta has already offered a revised bid. Los Angeles and Chicago may also be contenders.

In a press statement, Montreal representatives said, "It remains unacceptable that the FGG still wants to impose unbelievable financial controls while they have no responsibilities, nor on gathering the money, nor legally, because these two matters belong to the Montreal 2006 board of directors. The FGG, as Montreal 2006 is now used to, also suddenly put forward new demands."

Among themands."

Among those are accusations that a just-released survey, with statistics and opinions of prospec-tive participants, violated clear-ance rules from the federation, which aims to monitor announce

Montreal representatives said that, as a result, the host sport or-ganization, Équipe Montréal, was barred from attending several meetings related to the negotiations

meetings related to the negotiations after releasing the survey results.

According to Montreal representatives, the co-presidents of the two working committees of the federation, the committee in charge of members and the committee overseeing policies and procedures, had withdrawn Equipe Montréal's rights to participate in discussions concerning the Montreal 2006 Games during the annual meeting.

the Montreal 2006 Games during the annual meeting. Équipe Montréal, whose group has had federation representatives since 1993, publicly supports Montreal 2006, but denied any

conflict of interest.

They denounced "a unilateral decision which it judges to be un-acceptable coming from an orga-nization that claims to be democ-

ratic."

"It astounds us that we are "It astounds us that we are being reprimanded for supporting our own city, province, and coun-try when we are the initiators of Montreal's application for the sev-enth Gay Games," said Daniel Vaudrin, president of Équipe Montréal.
"We wholeharreally rejeat this

We wholeheartedly reject this we wholeheartedly reject this anti-democratic non-representative inequitable process that rules within this federation, which leads us to question the good faith of the federation," Vaudrin added. "Before passing judgment on the actions of an individual or an organization, it is only natural to give us the chance to respond. It's a fundamental principle of any democratic organization." A federation statement said that

Montreal representatives "walked away" from the Chicago meetings, unsatisfied with new limitations

imposed by the federation.

"We deeply regret that Montreal 2006 made the decision to

walk away from the negotiations which were planned with the best interests of future Gay Games participants in mind," said FGG co-President Roberto Mantaci. "The federation made multiple concessions to Montreal 2006. We are confident that we tried everything we could to reach an agreement

with them while remaining true to our stated obligation toward safe-guarding the fiscal responsibility by Gay Games hosts."

But Montreal's version of the November 7 events differed

"After being given only 12 minutes to be heard during yesterday's [November 7] all-day assembly, after all those efforts ... the FGG returned with clauses that Montreal 2006 had already repeatedly rejected and, more importantly, the FGG has continued to demand the full financial control of the 2006 Games," said Montreal 2006 organizers.

#### Past fiscal woes

In previous Games, federation members served as advisers and did not attempt such controls, nor

did not attempt such controls, nor did they contractually have fiscal responsibilities.

But the past four Games have lost increasing amounts of money, and Sydney's Gay Games VI, while praised for its accomplishments and inclusion of Southern Hemisphere participants eventually. sphere participants, eventually went into bankruptcy. Federation board members

have attempted to reign in spending in advance, to curtail what they predict may lead to another cial fiasco

Canadian representatives for

Montreal 2006, while having assured the federation of their fiscal \$1 million to prepare for the event, have yet to make a partial payment of the \$655,000 licensing fee to host the Games.

Having already raised up to \$5 million (Canadian) in funding and licensing for television rights, Montreal is prepared to host its GLBT sports event in August 2006, which will not be called Gay Games VII.

"Regardless of the outcome, there will be games in Montreal," said Tom Czerniecki, marketing and communications director of

"This is very disappointing to us," said Kathleen Webster, FGG co-president. "We've been work-Games to Montreal, and if they don't want us, I wish they'd let us

know sooner."
Said Montreal 2006 co-President Mark Tewksbury, "With the wealth of support already received from athletes around the world, we know that we will be able to host Games on the scale they de-serve, and for the first time in close to 20 years, in a financially responsible manner."

The Équipe Montréal survey predictably showed that the majority of potential participants would be from the United States. But whether the results of the Chicago meeting will affect those numbers remains to be seen. ▼

Updates are available at www.gaygames.org and www.Montreal2006.org.



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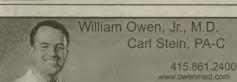
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### **Achmat**

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dy this situation during the 1976 Soweto uprisings Achmat set his high school on fire. He made sure no one was injured and spent the first of his five stints in jail for various anti-apartheid protest ac-

In 1990 Achmat thought he had received a death sentence upon finding out he was HIVpositive. Four years later, realizing he would not die soon, he decided to put his anti-apartheid political experience to work and founded the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality. His efforts led to the decriminalization of sodomy and inclusion of gay rights in the new constitution of South Africa.

At the 1998 AIDS funeral of his friend and gay rights leader, Simon Nkoli, Achmat announced

he would form TAC to prevent deaths due to lack of treatments. A year later he decided to put his life on the line to force the issue by refusing to take AIDS medication until the South African government committed to treating everyone. His organization, TAC, kept growing. Today it has 30,000 members and staged the largest AIDS demonstration in world history as 20,000 marched on the opening of Parliament in Pretoria last February.

last February.

Achmat also made headlines in late 2000 by being arrested for publicly smuggling 5,000 doses of fluconozole (thrush treatment) from Thailand where the price was 5 percent of Pfizer's South African price. Pfizer quickly agreed to offer fluconozole free of charge to all public clinics in South Africa.

In Oakland, Achmat will be ac-

In Oakland, Achmat will be accompanied by Nonkosi Khumalo, who led TAC's campaign to enforce the historic Constitutional Court nevirapine judgment on prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. She is assisting with the building of TAC branches and the promotion of treat-

es and the promotion of treat-ment literacy and women's health issues in the poorest and most rural provinces of South Africa. All proceeds from their public appearance will fund the TAC Treatment Project, which provides AIDS treatments to those in need. During their two-week U.S. tour buring their two-week O.S. tour they hope to raise a large portion of their overall \$3 million goal. Musician Carlos Santana has do-nated \$300,000 to their efforts. You can donate at www.tac.org.za.

Achmat appears at 6 p.m. Monday, November 17, at the Laney College Forum, 900 Fallon Street, one block from Lake Mer-ritt BART station in Oakland. Donation at the door is \$10. Call Priority Africa Network at (510) 527-4099 for more information. ▼



Montreal 2006 CEO Louise Ray, left, and co-President Mark Tewksbury, at a November 11 news conference in Chicago.

## Visual Aid's 'Big Deal' event Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

ffordable fine art will be in plentiful supply when Visual Aid hosts its 10th annual 'Big Deal" art sale and exhibition this Saturday, November 15 in San Francisco's South of Market Dis-

trict.
More than 500 works of art by Bay Area artists will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at a fixed price of \$110 each, plus tax. Additionally, 24 works donated by some of the region's top artists will be sold to the highest bidder during each term and the solutions. during a silent auction, and nu-merous prizes will be given away

during raffle drawings.

Admission to the Big Deal is Admission to the Big Deal is \$25 per person and includes access to the event, light hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages. Tickets go on sale at 3 p.m. Saturday; the sale runs from 5-8 p.m. at SO-Marts Gallery, 934 Brannon Street. "Big Deal is a wildly popular annual art event featuring 600 works of art," said Julie Blankenship, executive director of Visual Aid. "Every year art lovers camp out the night before to secure their place in line for best access to the art sale, but latecomers will

art sale, but latecomers will still have hundreds of fabulous artworks to choose from." Blankenship told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Visual Aid's annual budget is "just under \$200,000" and that the upcoming event is its largest fundraiser.

"We raise over 25 percent of our income from this event," she

All proceeds from the event benefit Visual Aid's programs for artists with life-threatening illsponsored by the agency include an art supply voucher program, an art materials bank, exhibition opportunities, career services, image archives, and a workshops

some of the internationally recognized Bay Area artists partic-ipating in the affordable art sale include Linda Connor, Robert Hudson, Richard Kamler, Amy Trachtenberg, Lucy Puls, David Cannon Dashiell, and Jeffrey Dugan. Art includes paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, and photographs.

The silent auction will include works by Timothy Cummings, Arthur Tress, Bruce Conner, Gary Bukovnik, Danny Shain, and Martine Jardel.

tine Jardel.

Raffle prizes include merchandise and gift certificates from Bay Area artists and businesses such as Macy's, Walt Disney Studios, the Asian Art Museum, the Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum, the San Francisco Zoo, the Chabot Space Center, and more. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

Space Center, and more. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

For more information, visit Visual Aid's Web site at www.visualaid.org or call (415) 777-8242. ▼

Thomas M. O'Connor



Beloved son, brother, uncle and father of Maya Monico Klein Minnick died November 6, 2003, at San Francisco General Hospital of melanoma.

Son of Margaret M. O'Connor of Kent, Washington; brother of Vincent O'Connor and sister-in-law Mary Lee of Kent, Washington, brother of Naymond O'Connor and sister-in-law Connie of Weston, Connecticut. Tom leaves several loving nieces and nephews including Mary Beth Sheridan who was his advocate these past four months of hospitalization and also leaves a dear friend, Kate Monico Klein.

Tom operated Bernal Heights Catering, well known for a lively staff and elegant food. He leaves a large community of San Francisco, new Iberia, Louisiana and Connecticut friends. He loved his life as a gay activist and entertainer.

A memorial mass of celebration will be held at St. Kevin's Roman Catholic

Church, 704 Cortland Ave., on November 22 at 12 p.m.
In lieu of flowers, your donations may be sent to Project Inform, 205 13th St., Suite 201, San Francisco, CA 94103.

#### **OBITUARY POLICY**

OBITUARY POLICY
Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization—and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death, Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

### TG victims

◀ page 2

former who also went by the name Tanesha Starr, stabbed multiple times in Birmingham, Alaba-

ma.
Additionally, there was a rash of transgender murders in Washington. D.C. over the past 12 months, including three shootings in one week of August alone (one victim survived). There were additional attempted transgender murders throughout the city; the most recent victim is recovering from a gunshot wound to the head from an incident on November 7. from an incident on November 7

Here in the Bay Area, two transgender killings have occurred transgeneer kings have occurred in the past two months (see story, page 1). On September 30, Sindy Cuarda, a 24-year-old from Richmond, California, was found bleeding from several gunshot wounds on a street in San Pablo. Just this past week, Stanley Van Dyke Traylor, 38, was found gunned down in the middle of a West Oakland street.

The list goes on, which is why the Day of Remembrance is so important, according to Gwen Smith, who founded the event in 1999 to honor Rita Hester, Hester was murdered in Boston in 1998, and like most anti-transgender murder cases, hers remains un

Anti-transgender hate crimes, said Smith, occur for a variety of reasons, but a large motivation seems to be the impression that transgenders are "either 'decep-tors' or sex objects," she said.

"We seem to live in a society that wants to view us as somehow disposable or unnecessary," said Smith, who like many in the com-munity is alarmed by the spike in reported anti-transgender mur ders. Smith writes the Transmis sions column in the Bay Area Re porter; in today's column, she elaborates on transgender mur-

While the spike may be attrib-utable in part to increased report-ing of such crimes, advocates also believe that anti-transgender murders continue to be under-re-

#### Vigil, march, memorial

Next Thursday, many Day of Remembrance events will be held by local groups. The gay-straight alliance at Washington High School in San Francisco's Rich

mond District will hold a noon-time vigil, according to Smith, and the University of California at Berkeley will have an afternoon event at Sproul Plaza.

The biggest event is at 6:30 m., when activists, mourners, transgenders, and allies will gather at Harvey Milk Plaza to remember those lost to transphobia. A vigil will recognize victims by name, and participants will then march to the LGBT Community

Center at 1800 Market Street. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) is expected to speak at the center's memorial, and members of Araujo's family will also be in attendance. Music will be provided by Transcendence, the world's only transgender gospel choir. Candles and signs are available but participants are encouraged to bring their own

Worldwide, Day of Remembrance events are scheduled for 29 states and the District of Columbia, and four other countries, including Australia, Canada, France, and Italy. ▼

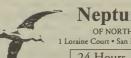
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### **GLMA**

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GLMA has also paired down through staff attrition and by imposing a hiring freeze. While in 1998 it had 15 staff members, GLMA now has only three fulltime employees, plus some part-time consultants.

"I am hoping we can get the staffing back up to greater levels over the next year or so," said Haller. "We probably will never be up to 15 again. That is probably too much, but I think that there are some tasks that need to be done and they are best done by

With Ginsberg handling the with Ginsberg handling the day-to-day operations of the association, Haller said he wants to focus on stabilizing the agency at its current level for about a year. "What I hope to achieve this year is get the old debt paid off," said Haller, who became president in January. "That way when we do

get foundation or private dona-tions that money can all go to-ward the future rather than paying off past debts."

Despite the downsizing of the

agency, GLMA has continued with one of its primary goals, re-ferring patients to gay and lesbian medical professionals. Its Web site averages 2,000 hits per month.

The board has also had some success at fundraising this year. When he became president, Haller When he became president, Haller convinced an acquaintance at the Kerr Foundation in St. Louis to donate a \$30,000 challenge grant. The funding came with the stipulation that every board member had to participate in meeting that challenge

had to participate in the challenge.
As part of the rules given to the 22-member board, no one could contribute more than \$5,000 and the board had 18 months to fulfill the challenge.

"We did it in six months," said

Haller, who added that 300 people attending the Miami meeting pledged another \$90,000 to the organization. "I would say we are in a recovery phase. We are out of the hospital and we are convalescing and gaining strength every

Even more importantly, the as sociation has continued to play a strong role in exposing and at-tacking the Bush administration's harassment of researchers working on LGBT health issues. Haller

said GLMA helped the *New York Times* report on how officials at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were telling researchers to censor words like "gay" and "transgender" from their grant applications. More than 650 people signed a GLMA letter denouncing the censorship.

At its conference in Miami last

At its conference in Miami last month, the association invited CDC officials to a panel discussion about its proposed changes to HIV prevention and concerns over the recent revelation that HIV and AIDS researchers were the target of government reviews.

"They actually carme to the

"They actually came to the conference and sponsored a luncheon panel where they really did want to dialogue with us about the future of LGBT healthcare," said Haller. "We do have some friends at the CDC who are working very hard to make sure that ing very hard to make sure that our issues are addressed. But in the current political climate it is really difficult for them to continue to do that. That is why GLMA is important. To have pressure from our community gives them the ability to say to the other side. 'No we need to be continuing to do this work." ▼

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# The catch trap

by Jim Provenzano

ven as a young boy, Matthew Cusick wanted to be a gymnast. Like anyone in his sport, joining the world-fa-mous Cirque du Soleil became a dream come true – at first.

Currently brought into the spotlight in a completely different way, Cu-sick has filed a federal discrimination complaint against the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil, after they abruptly fired him only days before he was set to perform in the com-Sports Complex ny's Las Vegas show,

[See related story,

page 3.]
The 32-year-old's early gymnastics training led to accomplish-ments that brought him an invitation to join a team in Washington, D.C., where he's lived since age 12. Competitive gymnastics, however, weren't to become a part of his

life.
"At the time I was a little burned out from doing it," said Cusick in a telephone interview

from Washington, D.C. "I wanted to take a breather after high school."

Coaching became the focus of his career, training about 20 kids a day at a girl's gymnastics school in Laurel, Maryland, for 14 years.

in Laurel, Maryland, for 14 years.
"Several students went on to
college, and got scholarships," said
Cusick with pride.
"I'm still friends
with a lot of them."
During that time, Cusick
learned that he was HIVpositive, but kept it a secret.
He also wasn't out at work,
"because it wasn't

"because it wasn't something that I thought needed to be brought into my career.

Although he knew a few other gay male gymnasts, he said that the sport is not particu-larly easy for gay men to be out. "There is that stereotype, based

on the aesthetic," he said of pre-sumptions about muscular male gymnasts. "It's hard to say how many gay gymnasts there are."

The lack of a community of

gay and lesbian gymnasts is mostly based on the difficulty in later adult life, citing the amount of

hours of training required.

"You can't just haphazardly go into it, or not train for several days," he said.

days," he said.

Cusick stopped coaching two years ago, and took a job as a bartender at the Washington, D.C. gay club Cobalt.

"I was still training, but not a lot. I was trying to plan my life, and pursue some other career choice."

He began working as a personal trainer when he heard about auditions for Cirque du Soleil. The company has nine shows on three continents, which are seen by millions each year.

"You see them, and it's amaz-ing," Cusick said. "I thought that would be great, but never pursued it before. I didn't think I would make it."

But after sending an audition videotape, in March 2001, Cusick was asked to attend their Orlando,

Florida tryouts.

Halfway through the acrobatics audition, among 60-90 aspiring performers, Cirque directors took him aside and mentioned a specific role in one of their shows that would suit him.

"They pretty much accepted me halfway through the audition." In February 2002, he was invit-

ed to attend July training sessions at Cirque's headquarters in Montreal, Canada

#### Dream come true

Four months of hard work en-

sued, which included room, board, and a small stipend. Cusick started as a catcher on two acts, hanging by his knees in the Russian high bar. At regular tests among the new cast members, his strength was noted as outstanding.
"In the first medical screening,

which was an evaluation, they check if you have a full range of motion, bones previously bro-ken," Cusick said. "They didn't want you to train on something that hasn't healed."

It was there that Cusick volun-It was there that Cusick volun-tarily revealed his HIV-positive status. "It came up naturally in the conversation," he said. The company's medical exam-iner confirmed that it would not

be a problem. At the time, and since then, Cusick took the nowstandard cocktail medication. He continues to have an unde-tectable viral load and a high T-

cell count.
After finishing the training,
Cusick returned home, feeling exited, but also concerned that he didn't have a signed contract, but was called back to Montreal for more training.

"This was more about getting to know about the different acts, the choreography, and the harder tricks," he said of the daily nine-hour rehearsals. Members of a separate show, Zumanity, were also present.

In March 2003, he was called to join the Mystere cast in Las Vegas, and was offered a contract to replace another performer in the show. Scheduled for two weeks of learning choreography, and having costumes fitted, Cusick was set

"I could have flown there on my own energy," he joked. But three days before he was supposed to leave, he was called into the office of Cirque's vice president of creation. The human resources director of the internation-

on gay dancers. Cirque du Soleil also bought full-page ads in that issue, and told me that they were letting me

other gay publications, including the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Of Cirque's reported gay-friendly stance, Cusick said, "I don't know how a company can claim to be gay-friendly and discriminate against HIV-positive people."

people."

One Cirque representative contended that Cusick was offered a solo position that wouldn't be what the company considered "a safety risk."

"No." Cusick stated. "They did to see offer the Why would I are the content to the work of the content to the content

not offer me that. Why would I not accept something like that? I wanted to be with Cirque and per-

Gorenberg said that Cirque's Gorenberg said that Cirque's concerns are unfounded, as no documented case of sports-related HIV transmission has ever been reported. "Every sports medicine association, the NBA, the U.S. Olympic Committee, the American Association of Pediatrics and other coranizations." atrics, and other organizations dealing with professional athletes and students, come to the same conclusion: there is no reason to test athletes, nor exclude them

from competition, if someone might be HIV-positive.

"We have decades of experience, and millions of people in all forms of athletics know all of the olicies," she said. Boxing is the only exception.

only exception.

Cusick's years of experience belie any undue concern. "If you do have an injury, you go to the doctor," he said. "You don't just keep going on, no matter what."

While dealing with his new fame as an unexpected symbol of AIDS discrimination, Cusick said, "The trying to get my life back to.

"I'm trying to get my life back to-gether," which includes returning

to his work as a trainer. Even at work, he said, "People have come up to me to support what I'm going through, and to let me know that I'm not the only

person out there dealing with it."
Yet despite the publicity, Cusick said, "It's not a pride sort of thing. I've been dealing with HIV for most of my adult life. It is kind of scary because there is still dis-crimination involved, not just from employers, but by other people."

For online links about Matthew Cusick and HIV in sports, go to www.sportscomplex.org.



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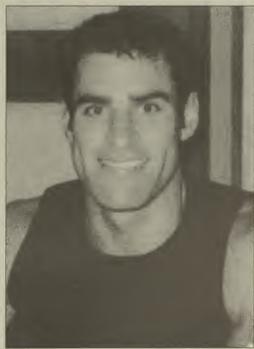
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Whistler Gay Ski Week

al headquarters was also present.
Cusick was shocked. "They



Matthew Cusick is fighting for his job at Cirque du Soleil.

After nearly an hourlong "rather emotional" discussion, Cusick was forced to turn in his

"I was stunned. I didn't know what to do. After that, for a few more meetings I had to attend, I had to report to the front desk and

have them come and get me. I could never get in again."

Cusick said that Cirque offi-

cials told him to remain silent about his dismissal. "They said they wanted to protect me."

Although his role was not as interactive as others were, Cusick

had made friends among the new

cast.

"People saw something was wrong by my demeanor," he said.
"I was not myself. I was in shock,

anyway. It was hard to comprehend."

Cusick stayed in Montreal for five days, before returning to Washington, D.C., still stunned by

his dismissal.
"It all just came crashing

Back home again, Cusick said, "I started thinking about what I

I needed to do, to stand up for what I needed to fight."

He called Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's New York offices. "I knew that they

were a great organization that helped the LGBT and HIV-posi-

Hayley Gorenberg, Lambda Legal's AIDS Project director, is

also Cusick's attorney. In July 2003, Lambda filed the complaint

"We did try to resolve it with Cirque before the complaint was filed," she said. "But they refused to reconsider."

Cirque du Soleil's public rela-tions may have taken artistic li-

cense with the case.

After having run a mere twoparagraph news item about Cusick in July, the November 11 Advocate magazine ran a cover story
and picture-filled feature about
other gay Cirque performers, but
no mention of Cusick's case.

Advocate aditor, Ruse Steele

Advocate editor Bruce Steele told the Washington Blade that Cusick's discrimination claim "did

not pertain to the article's focus

**Dream deferred** 

tive community.'

on Cusick's behalf.

cense with the case.

#### Milk bust

**◀** page 1

Lavender Greens.

Lavender Greens.

"We're a new group. We had one month between Pride and Matt's entry into the mayoral race," said Alterman. "We're hoping we can get something together, but we may have to refocus after the election."

Similarly, the Harvey, Milk

after the election."
Similarly, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club had planned to organize some fundraisers, but with two major elections in one year, had to put the Milk bust effort on hold.

"Efforts have stalled given all the political activity – including

the unexpected recall election that the club has had to organize around," said Milk Club President Robert Haaland, who did not rule out distributing information about the bust project during this month's Milk memorial events, including the annual Milk march in the Castro on Sunday, Novem-

"In my estimation, we want to make it happen," said Haaland. "And the community needs to come together to make it happen. Harvey does deserve to be memo-

rialized in a substantial way."

Privately, many advocates said that fundraising events may be hard to plan until Gonzalez repairs his relationship with groups

like the Milk Club, because such events will require support and input from LGBT politicos. The Milk Club endorsed Supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor, and many of its members were dismayed by Gonzalez's late entry

In the meantime, individual and corporate donations can be still be sent to the Harvey Milk City Hall Memorial Fund, Office of the Controller, City Hall, Room 300, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102. Checks should be made payable to the city and county of San Fran-cisco and should note that the do-nation is toward the Milk memo-

### TG victim

■ page 1

people in a car called to report a body in the 2700 block of West Oakland's Union Street, Respond ing police found the African ing police found the African American male-bodied victim—identified as 38-year-old Stanley Van Dyke Traylor—in female attire, dead from a gunshot wound. Neighbors said they heard gunfire but did not report it to police, and no witnesses have come forward. A busy transgender prostitution trade is known to operate

titution trade is known to operate within blocks of the crime scene, leading some police officers to speculate that the victim may have been a sex worker. There are no

suspects. Oakland Police Sergeant Brian Medeiros told the Bay Area Re-porter that the investigation is not focusing on a hate crime, but that "we're keeping an open mind to

everything."
"At this point it is just a homicide," said Medeiros. "It's definitely a murder; that much we know."

Other details – including whether Traylor lived as a woman or just worked as one - are un-

clear.
"We still can't ascertain that right now," said Medeiros of the victim's gender identity.

The B.A.R. will use the word

"transgender" to refer to the victim, as it is meant to be an umbrella term applicable to all those who fall outside traditional gen-

der presentation or experience.
Traylor's only family members, including a 10-year-old son, live in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her body is scheduled to be returned to them, and they are reportedly re-ceiving support from the Alame-da Victim Witness program. Not to be overlooked is the fact

that this killing was the second murder of a transgender person in the Bay Area within the last two months. On September 30, Ricar-do "Sindy" Cuarda, a 24-year-old Mexican immigrant living in Rich-mond, California, was shot several

mond, California, was shot several times on a street in San Pablo. Cuarda reportedly worked as a prostitute along an industrial stretch of Rumrill Boulevard, not far from where she was found wearing female attire and bleeding heavily. She died at a local hospi-tal. A hate crime has not been ruled out, but no suspects are in custody.

The similarities between the

two murders have led some to wonder whether the two crimes are related.

Certainly there's enough similarities to make me wonder," said local transgender activist Gwen Smith, whose national Day of Remembrance to honor transgender

victims of violence takes place

next week (see story, page 2).

Regardless of whether the crimes are linked, Smith said she is concerned about the two trans-gender murders in two months.

"This isn't something we've seen in the area for some time," she said.

Hate crime survivor advocate
Tina D'Elia of Community United
Against Violence said CUAV is
working with the police in both
cities to help in the call for witnesses to the crimes.

"CUAV is calling the murder of a person whom we know only as Stanley Van Dyke Traylor as an-other horrible tragic murder of a transgender woman," said D'Elia. "We are urging anyone to come forward with any information. We are also here to help friends and family of victims, and anyone who needs support around these crimes." The CUAV crisis line is (415) 333-HELP. Anyone with information on

Anyone with information on the Traylor case is asked to call Medeiros at (510) 238-3821. Crime Stoppers of Oakland is offering a \$10,000 reward.

The Cuarda case is also still open, and anyone with information about her life or death is asked to call Detective Gene Alameda at (510) 215-3244 or the Alameda at (510) 215-3244 or the San Pablo Police Department at (510) 215-3150. ▼

### <u>LEGAL NOTICES</u>

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541043 In the Matter of the Application of Zhi Xi Liang for Change of Name. The application of Zhi Xi Liang for Change of Name. The application of Zhi Xi Liang for Change of Name. The application of Zhi Xi Liang has filled an application that Zhi Xi Liang has filled an application proposing that his/fer name be changed to Vincent Leung. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter of appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January 2004 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. NOV. 13, 20, 27, DEC. 4, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271249-00 THATEMENT FILE A-0271249-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Far West Funghi, 1 Ferry Building, San Francisco, CA 94111. This business is conducted by an husband and wife, signed John Del Santo Garrone and Toby Logen Garrone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictilious business name or names on 09/09/86. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/05/2003. NOV. 13. 20. 27. DEC. 4. 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271236-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0271236-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Figoni's Coffee & Tea, 1352 Grant
Ave, San Francisco, CA 94133. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, Romio, LLC (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Exancisco. Can 11/10/5/03

Francisco, CA on 11/05/2003. NOV. 13, 20, 27, DEC. 4, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270875-00 STATEMENT FILE 02708/5-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Deborah Caperton Jewelry 226 Elisworth St. San Francisco, Ca. 94.110 This business is conducted by an individual, signed Deborah Caperton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name anames on 102-2003 The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2003.

OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03-541019

In the Matter of the Application of Corey Glenn Randle For change of Name. The application of Corey Glenn Randle for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Corey Glenn Randle has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dignan Phoenix Banes. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 9th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. OCT. 30, NOV. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270957-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: KO Adventure Training, 457 43rd Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Keith Olmo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/02/03
The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/24/2013. 10/24/2003. OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270336-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Shear Bliss, 1610 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a coporation, signed Andrew Lucido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003. 09/30/2003. OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270911-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: A Wedding to Remember, 621 Victoria Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94127.
This business is conducted by an individual, signed Stephanie Hall. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/23/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/23/2003.

OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270889-00
The following person(s) are discovered. STATEMENT FILE A-0270889-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio Wine Bunkers, 1430 Compton Road, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by a coporation, signed Christo Kasaris. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business same or lead with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2003. Ca. on 10/22/2003. OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
To whom it may concern: The Name of th
Applicant(s) is Norman Yiufai Ng &
Saengkaeo Ng. The Applicants listed
above are applying to the Department of
Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry
Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca
94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 637
Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca 94109.
Type of License applied for:
41-0N-SALE BEER AND WINE
EATING PLACE
OCT. 30, NOV. 6,13/2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is Shelton Matthew Ross. The Applicant listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 533 Sutter Street, San Francis-co. Ca. 94102. Two eff License apolied for: co, Ca 94102 Type of License applied for 41-ON- SALE BEER AND WINE PUBLIC PREMISES NOV. 6,13, 20,2003

The Indian Pile A-0271094-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Tal. Hardwood Floors.708 35th Ave San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lam Huu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictituous business name or names on 10/30/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/30/2003. STATEMENT FILE A-0271094-00

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0270853-00** STATEMENT IT LE A-02/0053-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Curves for Woman 1874 Market
StreetSan Francisco, Ca. 94/0102. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company signed Ellen Bucchianeri, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/22/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/2018.

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270588-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Cloud 9 Smoke Shop, 400 Broadway San Francisco, Ca. 941133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Caroline Mai. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flutifus business name or names on NA The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/9/2002.

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF, CA 94102 STATEMENT OF DAMAGES CASE # CGC-03-417346

David La Bua, plaintiff vs. National Car Rental Inc., defendants. GENERAL DAMAGES-- Pain, suffering and inconvenience - \$70,000.00, Emotional distress-0.00, SPECIAL DAMAGES - Medical expenses(to date) - \$5,000.00, Future Medical expenses + \$20,000.00, Loss of earnings(to date) - 0.00, Loss of future earning capacity(present value) - \$5,000.00. Signed Lawrence M. Einhorn, associated counsel for the natiff fering and inconvenience d counsel for the plantiff

NOV. 13,20,27, DEC. 4,2003

NOV. 13,20,27, DEC. 4,2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 0.3-54101

In the Matter of the Application of Jessica Marie Grones For change of Name. The application of Jessica Marie Grones for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jessica Marie Grones has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jessica Marie Maxwell. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 6th day of January at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. NOV. 6,13,20,27,2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03541007

FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03541007
In the Matter of the Application of Jonathon Alan Ford For change of Name. The application of Application of Jonathon Alan Ford for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jonathon Alan Ford draw and application that Jonathon Alan Ford has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jonathon Mc-Cain Winters Ford. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 18th day of December at 9.700am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

### Schwarzenegger

**◄** page **15** 

ilies, a lobbying group set up by Equality California, to defeat the measure. Leno said the groups are expecting the referendum will eventually qualify for the ballot

and are planning strategy to defeat it at the polls.

While gay leaders know they can not stop the measure from making it onto a ballot, Leno said

Schwarzenegger could.
"There would be no value in our investing in that sort of effort.

our investing in that sort of effort. It's Governor Schwarzenegger who could, in a brief statement, do that," said Leno.

There is precedent of a Republican governor helping to defeat an antigay measure. Ronald Reagan voiced opposition to the Briggs initiative, which would have barred homosexuals from teaching in schools, which helped to ston the measure from passing.

stop the measure from passing.

Gay groups are pushing the new governor to do the same and publicly state his support for AB205. Schwarzenegger has been AB205. Schwarzenegger has been described as a supporter of domestic partnerships, although the San Francisco Chronicle reported prior to the recall that Schwarzenegger would not have signed AB205.

Yet the paper did not attribute that to anyone and the governor-elect has never publicly stated any opposition, or support, for the measure. He also has refused to talk to the gay press. As with gay political leaders, requests for comment and interviews from several gay publications have gone unan-

But gay Republicans argue there is no reason to believe that Schwarzenegger will not come out against the referendum.

"I really think he is going to be good on our issues. He had made clear all along he supports domestic partnerships," said Paul Lynd, president of the San Francisco Log Cabin chapter, who will be at the swearing-in ceremony. "He does not support discrimination. He is going to be very favorable on our issues."

to be very favorable on our issues."

And they say they are not concerned by his refusal so far to

erned by his fetusal so far to speak with the gay media. "Part of their strategy in terms of how they ran the campaign was not to get into specifics on any is-sues," said Bissiri. "It was a deliberate strategy that was exercised across the board. It wasn't unique

across the board. It wasn't unique to gay issues."

Schwarzenegger's picks for posts in his administration have also met with mixed reactions from gay leaders. Many come from the administration of former Governor Pete Wilson, who served as Schwarzenegger's camping advice. The occupant gay. paign adviser. The one openly gay adviser, Tammy Bruce, described as being transphobic and against mainstream gay groups, has only

raised more concern.

"All the folks from the Wilson administration are of concern," said Leno. "The one bright spot

seems to be his interest in environmental protection, but with regard to civil rights we want to be ever hopeful. But some of the folks he is surrounding himself by have never been our friends."

However, Lynd disputes charges that Wilson was antigay and points to his signing AB2601

and points to his signing AB2601 in 1992, which stated employers could not discriminate against employees based on sexual orien-tation, and to his signing legisla-tion protecting people with HIV from being discriminated against

in housing and employment.
"That is not something I hear at all. It was not antigay, there were at all. It was not anugay, there were a large number of openly gay ap-pointees. He never cut HIV pro-grams," said Lynd, who worked in the governor's office and then as special assistant to the director of the Department of Industrial Re-lations. "Mark Leno keeps beating that horse when members of our that horse when members of our community, including Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden, say Arnold is going to be good on our issues and looks for-ward to working with him." And Bissiri said Bruce's being tapped for the transition team

should be seen as a good sign that gays and lesbians will have a voice in the administration.

"She is certainly outspoken but she is obviously an out lesbian and she is on the transition team. I think that is positive. He has ch sen people from across the political spectrum, including the gay community." ▼

# BAYAREA REPORTER LASSIFIE

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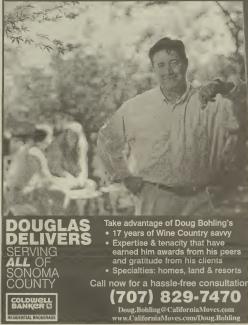


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### **LEGAL NOTICES**

STATEMENT FILE A-0270225-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0270225-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Silver Revolution 1220 Bowdoin Street San Francisco, Ca. 941.134. This business is conducted by an individualisigned Kee Jon Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 09/24/2003The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003.

OCT. 23,30 NOV 6,13,

STATEMENT FILE A-0270642-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bears of San Francisco, BOSF, International Bear Rendezvous, IBR, Mr.IBR
Bear, Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Daddy Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Daddy Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Bear Cub Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Daddy Bear Cont STATEMENT FILE A-0270642-00

NOV.6,13,20,27,2003

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: ERNEST PRICCO, JILL PRICCO, AND DOES 1 TO 10, INCLUSIVE. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: NATHAN TAYLOR, AN INDIVID-UAL.

VAL.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a type-written response at this court.
A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or legal aid office (listed in the phone book). The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz, Ca 95060. The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney or plaintiff without attorney is: Stephen P. Roberts, Belsher & Becker, 412 Marsh Street, San Lius Obispo, CA 93401; (805) 542-9900.
NOV. 13,20,27, DEC. 4, 2003 93401; (805) 542-9900. NOV. 13,20,27, DEC. 4, 2003

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

PROPERTY TAX -- FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE Treasurer Suan Leal reminds all San Francisco property owners that the first installment of the Secured Property Tax for 2003-2004 must be paid by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2008



Bills were mailed to all San Francisco property owners on or before November 1st. If you own property in San Francisco County and you do not receive your bill by November 10th, please call Taxpayer Assistance at (415) 554-4400 to have on eart to you, visit the City Payment Center in City Hall Room 140, or look up and print your bill online at www.cityservice.stgov.org.

YOUTH RECOGNITION DAY
The San Francisco Part 1

†
Youth Recognition Day is an opportunity for the City and County of San Francisco to celebrate
the contributions made each and every day by San Franciscois young people. Throughout the world,
youth are making valuable contributions to improving schools, neighborhoods, and communities.
On December 16th San Francisco will honor young people who have demonstrated the kind of
leadership and courage that deserves our recognitions.

†
Eleven young people, one from each Supervisorial District, will be selected and recognized at a ceremony and reception at Gity Hall on Tuesday, December 16. In order to be considered for this honor, nominees must be between the ages of 12 and 23 years old. Nomination forms will be submitted to the Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Those honorees selected will be contacted by October 31.

For more information, please contact Colleen Montoya, Director, or Ron McCan, Program & Pol-icy Coordinator, at the San Francisco Youth Commission at (415) 554-6446

VACANCY NOTICE.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled wasness. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee. I Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board, Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the Cityis web site: www.stgov.org/bd-supvrs. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated.

T
Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/ Commission or Task Force are still available please
call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

†
Childhood Nutrition and Physical Activity Task Force
The Childhood Nutrition and Physical Activity Task Force consists of 19 members. The Task Force shall be chaired and convened by the Director of the Department of Public Health (or his designee) who shall not be a voting member of the Task Force. The board shall appoint 16 voting members whom shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

t The Task Force is established to develop a comprehensive plan to address the many elements of the problem

T
The Task Force members shall be appointed for a one year term and shall meet on a regular and consistent basis of at least once a month beginning from the date that the appointments of a quorum of the voting membership of the Task Force becomes effective.

SELL ALUNHULI BEVENAGE
To whom it may concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is Gonzalez Antonio. The Applicant Sisted above are applying to the
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
at 185 Berry Street, Sulte #5600 San
Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 1760 Polk St., San Francisco,
Ca 94109, Type of License applied for:
41-0N-SALE BEER AND WINE

NOV. 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF, CA 94102, AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE #CPF-03-503532

HEATH STOYER, Petitioner, v. WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, a California limited liability company, and SEAN WALL, an Individual, Respondents.

TO WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY and SEAN WALL, an Individual Respondents.

TO WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY and SEAN WALL: you ARE ORDERED to appear in Department 302 of this court, located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA, on January 13, 2004, at 9:30 am, then and there to show cause, of you have any, why the petition of HEATH STOYER for dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC Should not be granted.

This order together with a copy of the petition for other contents of the CLC Should not be granted.

up the affairs of the LLC should not be granted.

This order together with a copy of the petition on file herein and any declarations filed in support of the petition in shall be served on SEAN WALL in the same manner as service of summons at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing, or as otherwise specifieds in an order allowing publication pursuant to CCP \$415.50. You are notified that a petition has been filed by HEATH STOYER seeking dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD LLC and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC. If said petition is granted, assets of the LLC will be sold and proceeds of sale applied in a manner according to law and as approved by the court. You must appear at the hearing on the date and at the time specified if you object to this petition. Dated Nov. 4, 2003, Ronald Evans Quidachay, Judge of the Superior Court. Nov. 13.20.27, DEC. 4, 2003

NOV. 13,20,27, DEC. 4, 2003

EATING PLACE NOV. 13,20,27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270827-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Cicli's 101 Spear Street B-5 San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Justino Matamoros. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/2003.

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270805-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Pro Gay Jobs II 2358 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed David Bach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictilious business name or names on 10/16,2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/2003.

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270789-00 STATEMENT ITLE A-02.70769-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: NPI Investors 479 Fair Oaks #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife, signed Renee Schaible. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/20,2003. The statement was filled with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/2003.

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270790-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Wealth Watchers 479 Fair Oaks #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife, signed James K Lewis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flictitious business name or names on 10/20,2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/2003.

NOV. 6,13,20,27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270209-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Aquarius Records 1055 Valencla Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Andrew Michael Connors. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/23/2003.

NOV.6,13,2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270664-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Libeboba 659 Ashbury Street San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel C. McCracken. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business aname or names on 10/14/2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/13/2003.

NOV.6,13,20,27,2003

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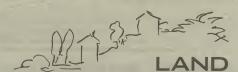
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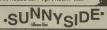
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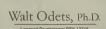
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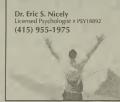
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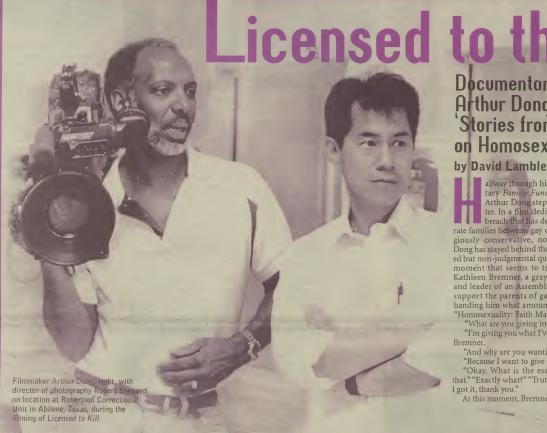


Corn on the Cobb's Comedy Club hosts Suzanne Westenhoefer. page 29



## BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS& ENTERTA

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# Documentarian Arthur Dong's set of Stories from the War on Homosexvality

by David Lamble

alfway through his absorbing documentary Family Fundamentals, filmmaker Arthur Dong steps briefly out of character. In a film dedicated to exploring the breach that has developed in three separate families between gay children and their religiously conservative, non-accepting parents, Dong has stayed behind the camera, asking pointed but non-judgmental questions. There comes a moment that seems to try his patience, when Kathleen Bremner, a gray-haired grandmother and leader of an Assemblies of God mission to support the parents of gay children, insists on handing him what amounts to a religious tract, "Homosexuality: Faith May Prevail Again."

"What are you giving me?" Dong asks irritably. "I'm giving you what I've just printed out," asys Bremner.

Bremner.

"And why are you wanting me to have this?"

"Because I want to give you what He said."
"Okay. What is the essence of it?" "Exactly
t." "Exactly what?" "Truth may prevail." "Yeah, I got it, thank you.

At this moment, Bremner's dog, who has been

# Vhen a wheelchair means freedom

# Disabled gay men to read from 'Queer Crips' at SF Main Library by John R. Killacky

even years ago, I left the world of the temporarily abled. Complications from surgery to remove a tumor from inside my spinal cord left me with Brown-Sequard syndrome and paraplegic. Extreme neuropathy with no sensation and temperature persists on my right side, and I have little location and touch with spasticity on my left.

Years of physical therapy, stretching, swimming, light weights, water running, Feldenkrais classes, chiropractic, mud and enzyme baths, and massage gives me some strength and range of motion, but not a balanced gait. Consequently, my bifurcated body is not aligned, torqueing with every step. Navigating my deadened limbs and twisted trunk, pain and fatigue are constant. Seven years and counting, of tilting toward the ground.

Last year, when I asked my husband what he wanted for Christmas, he said. "A wheelchair, so

Last year, when I asked in I instante what he wanted for Christmas, he said, "A wheelchair, so we can do more things together." I worked so hard learning to walk in the hospital, I was adamant not to sit down again. The ex-dancer in

me learned to stand up visually, and the exmarathoner knew how to take the second step. I even left the AFO ankle brace behind, afraid that my withered left leg would never return with it on. I still dream fully abled and even want my can to be temporary. I visually uping a wheel cane to be temporary. I viewed using a wheelchair as defeat.

He explained that with a chair we could go

He explained that with a chair we could go shopping together, browse bookstores, and take the dog on extended walks as a family, thereby improving our quality of life. He wanted me to do it for him as much as for myself. He argued that by not exerting so much, I might in fact extend my walking. After a block or two, the increased neuropathy and weariness are debilitating, limiting my mobility.

My doctors supported getting a wheelchair, as did my physical therapy team; however, the insurance company did not. Since I was a "community ambulator," coverage was denied. I was told they only provide wheelchairs for patients who are completely bed-ridden and cannot walk.

\* page 28 \*

page 28 ▶



## Lives of the circus animals

Knife-eaters, hand-balancers and the untamed pen

by Roberto Friedman

hat immortal wit was it who said, as his sage dying words, "Damn everything but the circus?" We think he might well have hit the bull's-eve. Last week was a circus of multiple big tops, with the al-ways entertaining SF election

results, which could not Matter more; the Rosie O'Donnell reality **O'Donnell** reality show, as Rosie finally got her day (and then some!) in court; the mad flurry of "unmentionable" gay rumors swirling around plum-my **Prince** 

Charles; and lo and behold, an ac-

tual circus, too; the
Cirque they call du Soleil, under
the yellow-and-blue grand the yellow-and-blue grand chapiteau pitched out back of the Pac Bell park lot, and opening as per tradition during a torrential rainstorm.

Out There was sitting in the

Out There was sitting in the good seats for the Alegria opening, a woman near us goggling that she was sitting in front of **George Lucas**. Of course she was, she was wearing a mink! Yet our VIP slot didn't prevent us from being engulfed with pop-

corn by a passing, clumsy and sad clown. That's entertainment. Likewise: On the stand in her

legal wrangle with her publisher Gruner+Jahr, Rosie has given what the tabloids are calling her finest performance. She testified that her dream was to be as suc-

cessful in the magazine world as two "controlling bitches," **Oprah Winfrey** and **Martha Stewart**. On the public record: "I said, 'Martha and Oprah are pretty successful control-ling bitches, don't you think?'"



Alas and alack for gay Prince Chuck: Allegations that he purportedly had sexual contact with one of his closest advisers were all

the more fun last week because no one in the whole British press would come out and say what it would come out and say what it was they were alleging in the first place! Instead, irmuendo and nu-ance fed upon itself like a long and meaty boa constrictor. But come on: All British men have ho-

There

come on: All British men have homosexual episodes. It's what they teach them in public school!

Here's another eternal verity we can vouch for: Circus people sure know how to party, as the Cirque opening-night revels were still going on in Shed A when we stumbled out towards 3 a.m. Thanks to Red Bull and vodka, we were lured into limboing below a silk scarf, then roped. Then watched with dropped jaw as





Party spirit at Alegria

ndsome hand-balancer Denys **Tolstov** double-, triple- and quadruple-jointed himself to make it under the scarf, stationed about eight centimeters from the

Spotted among the circus party-animals and opening-nighters on the pier: with his man Jim, BAR man-about-town Matt Bajko, regaling us with tales of Priestley up in Detroit; gay synchro-trapeze artist Gaston Elie, sharing a cozy couch with his massage-therapist boyfriend and a friend. So the b-friend has a job getting his hands all over gymnasts and aerialists with incredible bods. We call that nice work if

ble bods. We call that nice work it you can get it.

PS This week's headline is also the title of **Christopher Bram**'s new novel (HarperCollins), recently reviewed in these pages by **Glen Helfand**, concerning characters interlocked in the incesture that the standard of the concentration of the concentr ous arts world, gods and mon-sters, indeed.

#### Something's cooking

A little opera-loving bird told Out There that baritone Troy Cook (he's Figaro for the Nov. 21 & 23 performances of SF Opera's Barber of Seville) will be the special guest at a pre-performance reception for the Opera's new Rainbow Series tonight, Thurs., Nov.



Baritone Troy Cook

13, as the series kicks off with Don Carlos. The pre-curtain social for Rainbow subscribers takes place one hour before the performance, 6-7 p.m., in the North Box Bar. 6-7 p.m., in the NOTH BOX Bat. Rainbow folks get complimenta-ry wine courtesy of Rainbow Ridge Wines, a gay-owned winery, and will take home gift-bags. Opera-related prizes will be raffled off, too.

The three-opera Rainbow Se-

ries also offers discounted performances of **Rossini**'s *The Barber of Seville* (Jan. 15) and **Puccini**'s *La bohème* (June 16). Tickets may be purchased at the SF Opera Box. Office, War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave., by phone at (415) 864-3330 or on-



Lulu prepares for liftoff.

Cosmetic sturgeon

Artist Joni Mitchell once wrote, "Happiness is the Best Facelift," and Out There spotted local notable Lulu preparing for one of her very own at the Day of the Dead festivities. She's getting both the before and afters of her nip-and-tuck down for posterity in a video doc, Lulu Gets a Facelift, being helmed by none other than her Old pal Marc Huestis. who her Old pal Marc Huestis, who directed her in Whatever Happened to Susan Jane. They've been seen around town shooting scenes of Lulu shopping for veils and Jackie 0 sunglasses at Shauplatz for that "after look," working the treadmills at Muscle Sisters, and applying clay facials to get the old face ready for the butcher's shop. She goes under the knife this

Meantime, the new entrepreneurial spirit now manifesting it-self just off **Polkstrasse** seems to have hit a snag, judging from the line of unpaid creditors still awaiting payment from management. Suffice it say, the show will go on, at least for now. But things may be neither flush nor lush for long in

Two significant developments



John Waters to have Flop in SF

those who follow the John Waters oeuvre: Flop, an exhibition of his new photographs and sculptures, opens Nov. 20 at Rena Bransten Gallery, 77 Geary St., and runs through Jan. 3. The multiple of the script of t timedia works on show include film stills, collages, and doctored images from the world of celebs and Ho'wood. Info at

and Ho'wood. Into at renabranstengallery.com.
And a new book by Waters,
Art: A Sex Book (Thames & Hudson), co-authored by critic Bruce Hainley, collects cutting-edge artists who share Waters' embrace of sex and sleaze. He told *Variety*: "I love the idea that the art world in the latest place are the solution of the state of the stat is the last place, maybe the only place, where you can do the most radical work and not have to pre-tend that everybody has to like it."

#### Joy of fundraising

Last week's rainy weather did-dampen the crowd at filmn't dampen the crowd at filmmaker Jenni Olson's fundraising event at the Mission District Victorian she shares with partner Julie Dorf and their adorable tykes Hazel (5) and Sylvie (5 months). The bash brought in more than \$10,000 for Olson's debut feature, The Joy of Life, which she describes as "an unconventional appreciation of the streets and stories of San Francisco, with a butch twist." The elbowto-elbow crowd included such to-elbow crowd included such local homo notables as Academy Award-nominated docmakers Deborah Hoffman and Frances Deborah Hoffman and Frances Reid; local dyke dancer Anne Bluethenthal; and Congregation Sha-ar Zahav Rabbi Camille Angel. During the raffle, fiveyear-old Harry Bernholz wisely swapped his Gay.com Personals Subscription for a pair of Dance-Along Nuteracker Gala tickets.

Olson expects to hear from the

Olson expects to hear from the National Endowment for the Arts this week about a possible \$30,000 grant. Let's hope they have the balls to bestow a few bucks on some butch art. Info: butch.org.

#### Different strokes

The Toronto Sun reported recently that the future General Motors model the **Buick LaCrosse**, set to debut next year, "will be re-named in Canada after

"will be re'named in Canada after GM learned that LaCrosse is a Quebee slang term for masturbation." The new mid-size sedan, which will replace the Buick Regal, will still go by the name LaCrosse in the good old US.

"GM vice-chairman Boh Lutz said he want aware of LaCrosse's racy roots although he speaks French and spent three years living in Paris," reports the Sum. "Il thought I knew every expression existing in the French language for self-gratification, including the crudest ones known to man." the crudest ones known to man,

This isn't GM's first name snafu. Sales of the popular **Chevy Nova** stalled when the vehicle was shipped to Spanish-language countries, where 'Nova' translated to 'doesn't run.'"









Erik Jensen and Jessica Blank, co-authors of The Exonerated, based on journeys back from death row.

# **Under penalty of death**

### Considering the lives of 'The Exonerated'

by Richard Dodds

n 1977, Kerry Max Cook, who n 1977, Kerry Max Cook, who had worked at a gay bar, was convicted of murdering a woman in his apartment complex. His motive, according to prosecutors, was a hatred of women born of the fact that he was a "degenerate homosexual." In 1999, DNA tests proved his innocence, and he was released after 22 years on Texas' death row without apology or compensation.

out apology or compensation.
"The prosecutor said,
'I want to let the murderous homosexuals of the world know what we do with them. We take their lives.' He played on people's bigotry to take away 22 years of Cary's life," said Erik Jensen, coauthor of *The Exon-*erated. "If it hadn't been for the grace of Backstage

DNA, Kerry likely wouldn't be with us." He is now married and a father.

married and a father.

The story of Smith's conviction and later release is one of six such tragic/triumphal tales that make up *The Exonerated*, an unusual theater piece that uses the wrongly convicted's own words and excerpts from court transcripts to document their journeys back from death row. It opens Nov. 24 at the Curran Theatre with a core company of six opens Nov. 24 at the Curran Theatre with a core company of six augmented by rotating pairs of celebrities — Amanda Plummer and Robin Williams for the first week of the four-week run.

Jensen and his wife Jessica Blank, both actors in their 20s, becaus the wrighted as crusted and

began the project as a crusade, and have seen it grow from a once-a-week fundraiser in New York into a major enterprise playing along-side the likes of *Hairspray* and *The Lion King* on the *Best of Broadway* subscription series.

"We never thought it would

"We never thought it would have the opportunity to reach such a large crowd of people," lensen said from LA, where he was filming an episode of CSI, playing, ironically, a prosecutor. "We know that we went through a transformation meeting these people, and I think audiences are probably experiencing a repetition of that."

While the death penalty is a

tion of that."
While the death penalty is a hot-button issue, and Jensen and Blank are steadfastly against it, The Exonerated creates a middle ground, since no reasonable person wants to see innocent people put to death. "There are people who are pro-death penalty who

say, 'I understand in these cases, say, 'I understand in these cases, mistakes were made, and that's a tragedy, but I'm still pro-death penalty,' and we respect that,' Jensen said. "What the play is really generating is dialogue."

What Jensen, Blank, and director Bob Balaban wanted to avoid

was sanctimonious finger-wag-ging. "We went out of our way to just let the stories speak for them-selves," Jensen said. "Whether you're interested in the issue or not, the stories themselves are absolutely gripping."

It all began in 2000

It all began in 2000 when Jensen and Blank, not yet married, attended a conference on the death penalty at Columbia University. It included a talk via telephone by a former death-row convict who had been exportat-

had been exonerated. That was the "light-bulb moment" for Jensen

and Blank.
First came preliminary phone interviews with 40 former death-row prisoners, and from those who wanted to tell their stories,

who wanted to tell their stories, Jensen and Blank came up with a list of those they wanted to interview in person. The six chosen for inclusion in the play receive the same royalties as the authors.

"We worked on this for free so long that we tell people that thus far we've made about what you would make making the minimum wage for the past two-anda-ahalf years," Jensen said. "We're both still scrappy East Villagers who still struggle to pay the bills each month."

An unexpected effect of his ex-

An unexpected effect of his ex-periences was on his career as a performer. "I think selfishly that it has deepened my acting quite a bit," Jensen said, "because once you've heard these stories, the trials and tribulations you have in your daily life pale in comparison. It's pretty easy to get ride of jangled nerves and bruised egos when you compare your circumstances to the people whose stories are in our play."

For tickets to The Exonerated, early 512-770, or go to bestof

call 512-7770 or go to bestof-broadway-sf.com.

#### Mr. Lucky

You Should be So Lucky, a current attraction at New Conserva-tory Theatre Center, was pretty much the beginning and end of Charles Busch's career wearing pants. The creator and drag-diva star of such stage hits as Psycho Beach Party, Vampire Lesbians of Sodom, and The Lady in Question decided in 1994 that he wanted a change of pace.

I wanted to take a little break from drag because at the moment I felt I had gone as far as I could," he said. "I thought it would be interesting to try to play my own gender, but I really didn't enjoy it much." "I wanted to take a little break

In the unabashedly zany comedy, Busch played a timid electrologist named Christopher who acogist named Christopher who ac-cidentally electrocutes a wealthy client who, unbeknownst to Christopher, had left him a for-tune in his will. The play got good reviews ("utterly winning," wrote Ben Brantley in *The New York Times*) and so did Busch in his

Times) and so did Busch in his rare trousers role.
"Initially, I was going to play a male equivalent of my drag roles, a very flamboyant gay guy," said Busch, currently on screen in Die, Momnie, Die! "But then, as the play evolved over the course of a couple of years, my character became more and more recessive, and because of the plot, this very shy and withdrawn person. I have a bit and withdrawn person. I have a bit of an artistic dilemma being the writer and the actor because some times the play dictates the thing that the actor doesn't want to do."

As Brantley noted in his review, Busch gave up the flashiest roles to two of his female characroles to two of his female charac-ters. "I love writing female char-acters, so the women's parts re-mained very flamboyant and out-rageous, and in some sense were like drag characters, even though

like drag characters, even though they were played by real women. I was in the subdued part, and it was very frustrating for me. What I do best is playing female characters. It's what makes me special."

At NCTC, Patrick Michael Dukeman is playing Christopher, while the flashy female roles go to Adrienne Krug as the late milliohaire's avaricious daughter and Camilla Busnovetsky as Christopher's cheerfully promiscuous sister. Director Christopher Jenkins returns for his sixth NCTC production.

Also coming up at New Con-Also coming up at New Conservatory, Kinsey Sicks celebrates its 10th anniversary of dragapella with Oy Vey in a Manger, opening Nov. 21. And Liebe Wetzel and Lunatique Fantastique return with The Construction Cabaret, a found-objects puppet show for grownups opening Nov. 15.

For tickets, call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached







# Rattling the cage with 'Fidelio'

### Berlin Philharmonic to appear at Davies Hall Nov. 24-25

by Tim Pfaff

ust submit. If you're at all serious about Beethoven's Fidelio, you have to get the new EMI set, compiled from live performances by the Berlin Philharmonic under its new music director, Simon Rattle. As he did with his new set of the Beethoven symphonics (recorded with the Vienna Philharmonic, reviewed here recently), Rattle uses a new critical edition of the piece, which expunges errors in the old edition and brings the score closer to

Beethoven's versions.

It is a measure of Rattle's power in the music business that, power in the music business that, when he conducted Fidelio for the first time, for the 2001 Glynde-bourne Festival (where the pit band was the more appropriate Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with whom Rattle does some of his best work), he was

Dinner & Weekend Brunch

able to persuade the editors of the new Beethoven edition to speed up preparation of the opera's new corrected score especially for his

The differences are significant and audible, and its use of the score gives this Fidelio a certain undeniable hegemony. It needs it. Only the edition makes this the Fidelio of choice — if, in fact, it achieves that goal. The vocal principals are hardly ideal. The orchestra consistently steals the show. Worse, under Rattle it gives a performance that smacks more of vanity than of devotion to the work, which has seldom been more relevant than in our time.

It will be interesting to observe the aftermath of the Berliners' two-concert visit to Davies Hall later this month. Generally re-garded as the world's greatest orchestra, these musicians are real party-spoilers. The staggering vir-tuosity of their playing, and their visible as well as audible unanimity of musical purpose — they really do play "as one" — can make other orchestras sound wan in their wake. The Symphony may yet regret having them as their guests.

This recording, made this past April, following staged perfor-mances of the work with the same cast at the Salzburg Easter Festi-val, consistently shows the instrumentalists at their jaw-slackening best. While they're predictably impressive at full throttle, Rattle seldom keeps them there long, and tends more to exploit their ability to play softly, and to go from soft to loud and back with-out "the click of attack," to use the sage words of legendary record producer Walter Legge.

#### **Dungeon room**

A good point of reference is the opening of the second act, summoning the gloom and fore-boding of the political prisoner Florestan's cell in Don Pizzaro's prison." Also prisoner Management of the political prisoner descent duragen." The prisoner duragen and prisoner duragen are prisoner descent duragen. prison's "deepest dungeon." Its pi-anissimo opening, at once hushed and plush, is transfixing. Then come sets of terraced dynamics to full forte, calibrated to the decibel. null forte, cainbrated to the decibel. Throughout, interjections from the woodwinds, and particularly the solo oboe, emerge with unprecedented clarity and musical significance. Then, after Florestan's peroration, the sound withdraws to its horrid, muted silence. It's stupendous, and stupefying. Even a listener well-acquainted with this score is sure to get lost in these new, even more unfath-omable sonic riches. The BPO's playing is all too literally spell-binding, and the listener's trance comes at the expense of a drama that was of central importance to the composer in the setting of his

only opera.

The players don't help. The good news is that Juliane Banse, the Marzelline, has grown a voice since the last time I heard her, and her pointed singing is well-matched by Rainer Trost's ardent Jacquino. Thomas Quasthoff's Don Fernando is luxury casting of the kind only Salzburg could af-

From there, things go from the merely adequate to, vocally, the seriously underpowered. As Florestan, Jon Villars (whose very restan, Jon Villars (whose very name brings uncomfortable re-minders of the greatest Florestan on record, Jon Vickers) gets off to a good start with a sonorous "Gott," then wavers between wannabe Heldentenorism and Komisches-Oper sentimentality. Angela Denoke's voice unravels early and never gets stitched back together. Her Leonore has commitment, but her increasingly desperate squalls foul the ensem-

Rattle's high-octane reading is understandable. Give a guy a Lamborghini, and he's sure to want to see what it will do. But want to see what it wint do but this set is only going to contribute to the mounting concern that its new music director is taking the BPO back to the Karajan era of unrelenting sound sculpture only intermittently coupled with prob-



Sir Simon Rattle: high-octane

The recording kindles curiosity about the production by Nikolaus Lehnhoff, who seems like the right sensibility for this trenchantly political work. But, shorn of his contribution, the fundamental problem with this Fidelio is that it stinks of Salzburg. It's hard to imagine Beethoven's approving of his deeply felt masterpiece making its major appearances these days almost exclusively for the entertainment of the ances these days almost exclusively for the entertainment of the world's most well-heeled — for each of whom to afford a festival ticket, some real-life Florestan, or 10, must rot in the cages of the powerful rich. The sheer opulence of this Fidelio is not just an excess but an offers. but an offense.

Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic play Davies Hall, Nov. 24 & 25. Call (415) 864-



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### Wheelchair racing

■ Arts cover

It seemed oxymoronic to me. Luckily, we were able to manage the finances, and a few weeks later, a sleek black Quickie Rigid came home with its wheels cambered to make it look (and function) like a racing chair.

#### Marathon man

Propelling the chair proved harder than I imagined; my 51-year-old body had never engaged those particular muscles before, and my condition made for an interesting challenge to exert equal force with both arms. However, within months, my dormant marathoning self was reengaged: building up endurance, time, and mileage, complete with racing outfits; husband, dog, and I would

go out together.
At first, I was embarrassed to be seen in the wheelchair. My fun be seen in the wheelchair. My fun was spoiled whenever we ran into someone we know. People invariably asked if my health was worse. I found it impossible to tell them the chair actually improved my strength and vitality. Eventually I asked friends to join me for my workout, relling along. Crissv. workout, rolling along Crissy Field framed by the Golden Gate

Thus far, I only accept the chair as a recreational vehicle, never bringing it into work. Ego is a fragile and curious thing. I feel my shuffle and cane are somehow my shuffle and cane are somehow more imposing to my profession-al colleagues at the San Francisco Foundation. But I have started using the chair at dinner parties at



John Killacky: improved vitality

home. I find it more comfortable, and my energy lasts longer when I

am in it.

People get confused when they see me move in and out of my chariot. At the State Fair, I rolled up to the Tilt-A-Whirl and stood up to join the line. The ticket-taker asked my partner, "Can he get on this ride?" "You'd better ask him" was the now-standard reply. Ignoring those of us in chairs used to infuriate me, it is too common an occurrence. That day, I just tossed it off and climbed on the ride, screaming and laughing as

next page

# **Comedy tonight** (and tomorrow)

Cobb's Comedy Club gets ready for gays

by Adam Sandel

fter 16 years at Fisherman's Wharf, Cobb's Comedy Club has moved, improved and reinvented itself in a new North Beach location at Columbus and Lombard. Bob Saget headlings the grand opening of headlines the grand opening of the new club tonight through Sat-urday, and lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer headlines on Sun-

day.

The heavily straight tourist crowd at the former Cobb's made for an occasionally dicey proposi-tion for queer comics, but the club's owners are happy to now be in a place that's more frequented

by locals.
"To locals, the Wharf is like Kryptonite," says co-owner Tom Sawyer. "All the cool rushes out of your body when you go there. But we think North Beach is a place that's more comfortable for locals and the gay and lesbian commu-

nity."

Cobb's will continue its annu-Cobb's will continue its annu-al Swallow My Pride queer come-dy show during the last week of June, and they're looking to book more queer comedians. "We'd like more funny people, period!" says Sawyer's openly gay business part-ner Michael Pagan. Although the best comedy has a dangerous edge. Sawyer has zero

tolerance for offensive comedians.
"Our policy for the past nine years is not to book racist, sexist or homophobic comics," he says. "They play at other clubs, and some of them are huge draws, but the idea that Andrew Dice Clay plays this

And while audiences can be unpredictable, Cobb's doesn't tolerate hecklers. "I think of our audience as our guests," says Sawyer.

dience as our guests," says Sawyer.
"And if a guest pees on my couch,
I'm going to ask them to leave."
Suzanne Westenhoefer is
much more tolerant of her new
cocker spaniel puppy, who was
peeing on the floor as we spoke
about her upcoming gig at
Cobb's. The nationally-known
lesbian comic recently taped a
one-hour special for the Bravo
cable channel, and has appeared
many times locally at the Great
American Music Hall.
She hasn't been in San Francis-

American Music Hall.
She hasn't been in San Francisco since a Theatre Rhinoceros event two years ago, but she has a great appreciation for San Francisco audiences. "They're smart like New Yorkers, open and warm like Southerners, and political like DC audiences," she says.
"They're also politically correct and not forgiving — it's like, 'Make one false step, and we're booing," she says. "San Francis-



Westenhoefer: 'I can be much meaner when the audience is straight.'

cans are definitely the hardest audiences, but they're the most rewarding once you've won them over. If you can make it in San Francisco, you can make it any-

Westenhoefer began her career (on a dare) at amateur night at Kelly's Cabaret in New York City in 1990, and now performs her 90-minute show in about 80 cities 90-minute show in about 80 cities each year. "When I was starting, there wasn't anybody gay in comedy, we were all in ACT UP," she says. "I started out in a sort of activist way and was making a living at it by 1992."

She claims that she doesn't have a lot of problems with hecklers, partly because of her wholesome image. "My blonde, blue-eyed ex-cheerleader look doesn't really lend itself to people velling

really lend itself to people yelling things at me."

things at me."
Although she plays some venues with straight audiences and some with gay audiences, in some ways the lesbian comic can let her hair down more with the straight folks. "I can be much meaner about straight people when the audience is straight;" she says. "When I say that men don't when I say that men don't know how to do oral sex, their wives go nuts. But when I say that to gay audiences, they're sensitive and worried about bashing."

#### Working out

Cobb's has always been a gymnasium for comics, with its comedy showcase three nights a week. The new location seats 400 in the main room, double the capacity

of the previous space, making it one of the five largest comedy

clubs in the country.

The club's full-service restaurant under the direction of execu-

rant under the direction of executive chef Kevin McLaughlin promises more gourmet fare than the typical comedy club menu of cheese-sticks and nachos.

The larger space will allow Sawyer and Pagan to book biggername acts. Although comics such as Jim Carey, Tim Allen and Robin Williams have been known to drop in unexpectedly to do a 20-minute set, the new club will enable other big comics to flex their muscles before a larger audience.

ence.

The new Cobb's has also been designed to facilitate the filming of comedy specials. For the past three months, Sawyer and Pagan have been filmed themselves, strapped with mikes, as a crew films them for a "Making of a Club" documentary.

If the finished film shows them promising a reporter from a gay newspaper that the new Cobb's is there to give both gay and audiences a good time, you'll know

ences a good time, you'll know who they're talking to. ▼

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### Wheelchair racing

previous page

we zoomed around in circles.

I did hit a bump in my recovery road; I blew out my shoulder. Pain there and in my legs was such that I did not sleep and had a hard time focusing. As anyone experiencing chronic pain can attest, exhaustion can be a physical and emotional state.

After consultation, I added another drug to my pharmaceutical maintenance plan and layered in new therapies that include biofeedback, self-hypnosis, acu-pressure, and acupuncture. With each new modality of treatment, I must interrupt my expectations. Rehab is continual, and recovery will be gradual; improvements are

t cures.

My chair mileage is scaled back for now as I focus on micro-cali-brating muscle groups with more modest specificity. I do not know if I will work my mileage back up. I might miss an upcoming race for the cure, but this morning I went to the ocean with my family, and rolled along slowly and hap-

John R. Killacky co-edited, with Bob Guter, the anthology Queer Crips: Disabled Gay Men and Their Stories (Haworth Press). There will be a publication party with readings by local authors on Nov. 22, 1 p.m. at the SF Public Library Main Branch.

# **Vets of the Metropolitan**

by David Ehrenstein

Monkey Suits by Jim Provenzano; iUniverse, Inc., \$15.95

s the last guests departed, the swift deconstruction of the elegant tables began. Plastic tubs and ice tins were hauled from table to table, becoming blood-colored like a Guyana Koolaid mix. Candles were snuffed out and silverware tossed into trays with a tiny clatter. Glasses were dropped into plastic racks and stacked to the side like small skyscrapers. Tablecloths were ripped away and stuffed into garbage bags for laundering the next day by unseen crews of Chinese women, whose efforts reaped less than four dollars an hour. In the rest rooms, a few waiters took silent pleasure in pissing on the piles of unused ice cubes that were poured into the men's room toilet."

More than anything else in Jim Provenzano's new novel Monkey Suits, the above paragraph captures something terribly specific about New York in the 1980s, something only a gay man with a "worm's-eye view" of that era's obseene confluence

of luxury and squalor would notice—the rapacious waste of it all. Set largely in the great hall of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where party after party unfolds for the delectation of the city's "swells," Monkey Suits revolves around a coven of caterwaiters, many of whom are also members of ACT-UP. One only has to read a few pages of Provenzano's prose to sense that an AIDS demo of some sort is bound to unfold in the climax. Yet it does so with surprising discretion.

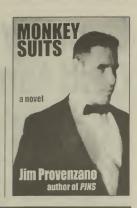
discretion.

For, just as he grasped the subtleties of adolescent lust in Pins, his gay-teenage-wrestlercoming-out novel, Monkey Suits, glides smoothly over the surfaces of buff boys in tuxes, discreetly flirting and less-discreetly humping to get at what can only be called the zeitgeist of the AIDS generation. A fatal disease is running amok, and its primary victims are rising up to deal with the chilly indifference of the world in which they live.

of the world in which they live.
Provenzano is alive to the
way that fiction can get to the
heart of things in a way that
nonfiction cannot. Still, for all
the sexual heat generated by the
cater-waiters of "Fabulous
Food," and their awakening to

the fact that their lives are on the line, Provenzano maintains a poker-face reportorial style that resists the temptation to caricature. Speaking as a former employee of the Met, I can vouch for the authenticity of every page, particularly the way the book evokes the ambiance of dinner being served in a reconstructed Egyptian temple.

of dinner being served in a reconstructed Egyptian temple. Needless to say, all this has been whisked away now, like those dinners. The rich are greedier than ever, but are careful to dress casual and even down to ape the lower classes they otherwise despise. Gayness is "out," and therefore more "in" than before, yet kept at a discreet distance. And AIDS is not only still with us, infection rates are on the rise. But the cries of the dying are muffled as a new generation strides forth, largely indifferent if not downright hostile to the past. This book is for them.  $\blacksquare$ 



## **Short-story master**

by Jim Nawrocki

Collected Stories by David Leav-

n their introduction to the 2001 Penguin edition of E.M. Forster's Selected Stories, David Leavitt and his partner and co-editor Mark Mitchell present an appreciative summary of Forster's career. They note the sad fact that Forster never felt comfortable addressing overtly homosexual themes in his published works, and the equally sad fact that Forster never received due recognition for his short fiction. Leavitt, a kind of heir to Forster, has done better on both counts. The new Collected Stories from Bloomsbury brings together Leavitt's short fiction from three collections: Family Dancing (1983), A Place F ve Never Been (1990), and The Marble Quilt (2001).

and The Marble Quilt (2001).

In his early 20s, Leavitt made a big splash when his fiction appeared in The New Yorker. His first collection appeared soon after, to be followed by novels, novellas, and of course, more stories. Today Leavitt is one of the most accomplished writers, gay or straight, now working. In his introduction to this collection, Leavitt recounts his memorable debut with admirable humility. He also confesses that while "the novel astounds and enthralls me — I am humbled and quickened by it — the story remains my first great love."

Leavitt's debut story "Territo-

David Leavitt

ry" appeared in *The New Yorker* in 1982 and was heralded as the first gay-themed fiction to ever appear in the magazine (a fact Leavitt politely disputes). Appropriately enough, the story, about a young man who brings his male lover home to meet his mother, is the first in this collection. In it, as in his other stories, Leavitt proves himself a master of the craft of short fiction. He can get his readers inside the heads of a wonderful array of characters. In "Family Dancing," the title story of his first collection, Leavitt weaves together the portraits of a family whose members have broken away from each other, and who mourn the loss, but are unable to find the way back to what they once were.

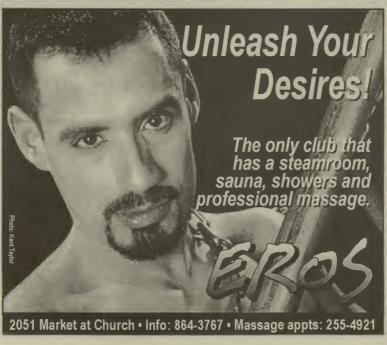
Gay themes dominate Leavitt's fiction, but gay characters aren't always the voice at center stage. In

"Family Dancing," for example, the gay characters hover at the periphery, eclipsed by the sadly bewildered mother. In "A Place I've Never Been," the title story of Leavitt's second collection, a young woman who is the longtime friend of a young gay man finds herself confronting both the meaning of their friendship and the vacancies of her own love life. The story also explores the theme of love and anxiety in the age of AIDS.

of ner own love lile. In estory also explores the theme of love and anxiety in the age of AIDS.

While Leavitt is a gifted observer of contemporary relationships and domestic dramas, he's equally talented at historical fiction. He demonstrated this gift in his 1993 novel While England Sleeps, set in 1930s Europe. His most recent story collection, The Marble Quilt, offered more examples. In "Crossing St. Gothard," for example, he describes the sexual anxieties of a young tutor as he escorts two of his charges and their mother on a European rail trip in the early 1900s. In "Heaped Earth," he describes the tortured, closeted existence of gay actors in '60s Hollywood. In "The Infection Scene," he alternates between two timelines: one dealing with the story of Oscar Wilde and his lover Lord Alfred Douglas, and the other depicting two young men in '90s San Francisco. It's testament to Leavitt's talent that he is able to travel to so many places in his fiction. Given his professed love of the short story, and his obvious talent for it, it's likely that this volume will not represent the last of his short fiction. ■







# They go to pieces

## 'Suddenly,' it's the new Argentine cinema

by David Lamble

n the new film Suddenly, a portly Buenos Aires woman, Marcia (Tatiana Saphir), glances nervously at men in the subway as if she were looking at police mug-shots, seeing the men around her as potential rapists. The men have a faintly cadaverous look, the look Woody Allen goes for in those films where he tries to prove that his fans aren't worthy of him. Director Diego worthy of him. Director Diego Lerman blends the humor of these moments like a spicy under-taste to a fancy entree. His real aim is more to provoke than

amuse.

Marcia is not paranoid. She is, in fact, being stalked, just not by men. Marcia's stalkers are a couple of knife-wielding lesbian terrorists, Mao (Carla Crespo) and Lenin (Veronica Hassan), whose agenda seems to be modeled on a Marvist version of a TV reality. Marxist version of a TV reality show: they aim to abduct Marcia, have sex with her, shame her for her girth and small-town shopgirl tastes, and finally take her for a ride to a place she's never seen, a

lonely stretch of the Atlantic

Stille.
Suddenly crackles with brutal Studenty Crackles with Drutal lines that are meant to sting. Despite stuffing her face through the first reel, Marcia gains our respect when she stands up to Mao's taunting and tells her, "Just because I'm fat doesn't mean I'm an asshole"

Mao and Lenin "nationalize" everything in their path, from a small scooter they use to hunt for prey; to the nonsmoking section of a downtown coffee shop, where they don't drink coffee, but where they do smoke; to a city cab sur-rendered by its driver at knife-point, driven until it's out of gas, and finally abandoned, in a not-too-subtle metaphor for the Argentine economy. Lerman, in his director's notes, explains that the film's shooting was interrupted both by a search for production funds and by the country's fre-

tunds and by the country's frequent wildcat strikes and protests. The trio hitch an assortment of rides, the most harrowing one from a randy truck-driver. A hitand-run incident involving a dying motorcyclist is left unresolved, like the disappeared vic-

tims of the former junta. The women wind up at the boarding house of Lenin's feisty Aunt Blanca, played by Beatriz Thibaudin, who bears an odd resemblance to the late poet W.H. Auden in drag. While the journey to Aunt Blanca's has been a sobering trip into their country's spiraling decadence, its moral as well as financial bankruptcy, once the young cial bankruptcy, once the young women arrive at the ramshackle cottage with its eccentric lodgers and barely functioning plumbing, they are faced with the anarchy of their own desires, and the awk-ward compromises that must be made to satisfy them.

#### Chairman dances

Like her namesake, Mao is a bit Like her namesake, Mao is a bit of a sex pig, seducing and then abandoning Marcia; earlier, Mao (played by Crespo like a young Jack Nicholson working for Godard) prefaces her blunt demands for sex with the caveat, "I'm not a lesbian." Once at Aunt Blanca's, lesbian." Once at Aunt Blanca's, Mao shows she wasn't kidding, turning her sights on a nebbish of a biology student, Felipe (Marcos Ferrante), terrorizing him in a shoplifting trip to the local grocery and a passive/aggressive raid on his heart.

Lenin renews a passionate friendship with the chain-smoking Aunt Blanca. That she models herself after the older women gives their reunion a surprising

herself after the older women gives their reunion a surprising poignancy, especially in scenes where Blanca lip-synchs to a tango record and begs a midnight cigarette from Lenin.

Suddenly recalls Jim Jarmusch's Stranger Than Paradise; it has a bullying character to kickstart the plot; it has stylish blackand-white images. Lerman soft-

and-white images. Lerman soft-peddles Jarmusch's non-sequitur humor, adopting the Italian Neo-realism of a generation of New Wave filmmakers like Adrian Cae-



Veronica Hassan, Tatiana Saphir and Maria Merlino in Suddenly

tano, whose *Red Bear* played the 7th International Latino Film Festival last week. Lerman uses Argentina's ongoing love affair with Fascism to paint an edgy portrait of survival, shadowed by traditional Latin-American fatalism.

Opens Friday.

## Shticky business

by Robert Julian

The Funny Thing Is... by Ellen DeGeneres; Simon & Schuster,

llen DeGeneres has a uniquely identifiable comic voice, and anyone who might doubt this fact need only read a few pages of her latest book, *The Fumy Thing Is...* DeGeneres' prose sounds exactly like DeGeneres doing her stand-up routines, and this is both the good and the had news. Ilen DeGeneres

In terms of comic traditions, DeGeneres springs directly from the school of Bob Newhart. Her comedic style is contemporary observational humor; her insights are calmly delivered with a wry sense of irony, and heavily em-broidered with a series of digressions. DeGeneres can start out talking about Barbie Dolls and, through a series of topical conju-gations, pass through Hatha yoga, cosmetic surgery, alternative medicine, and smoothly bring her monologue right back to Barbie Dolls. This is a rare talent and a great skill.

In *The Funny Thing Is...*, De-Generes is at the top of her form Generes is at the top of her form in a hilarious chapter on the search for inner peace, entitled "Silence is Golden." Like all the chapters of her book, it is a short trip down a bumpy road. But not all chapters resonate with this kind of hilarity. The chapter on her father, "My Dad Was Like a



Father to Me," is stupid and un-Father to Me," is stupid and un-funny. Other chapters roll by smoothly, but by the time I was halfway through the book, De-Generes' comic technique became a form of highly intelligent shtick. Fans of the actress/comic/talk-show host will probably revel in snow host will probably revel in an opportunity to experience on the page what amounts to a three-hour stand-up routine. Those with a more objective perspective may find the work less engrossing. Last year, when I saw De-Generes perform live at Davies Symphony Hall, I was impressed

by her intelligence but under-whelmed by the overall impact of her routine. There was nothing daring or innovative in her pre-sentation, and I didn't laugh out loud once. I smiled occasionally. I had the exact same experience reading *The Funny Thing Is.*...  $\blacktriangledown$ 







## Wherefore art thou, Romeo?

Two great ballets, 'R&J' and 'Don Quixote,' out on DVD

by Stephanie von Buchau

eeping up with changes in technology used to be easy. You had 78 rpm records for 50 years and then LPs came along, followed 25 years later by compact discs and videotape. Now it is virtually impossible to keep up. You get settled with laser disc, and along comes DVD. If you have a home-theater speaker system, you can listen to DVDs just as you would CDs (without watching the picture) because the

just as you would CDs (without watching the picture) because the sound is better.

DVDs are small, easy to program and full of "extras" like subtitles. The picture is infinitely superior to videotape and, if you have a good speaker system, the sound is sensational. Also, now that DVD has caught on with the public (the players are dirt-cheap: I paid \$79 for my major-brand DVD-player), the companies that

supply hardware are becoming more imaginative in program-

There are terrific contemporary opera productions available: for instance, the Stuttgart Alcina which caused such a row here last fall, makes more sense dramatifall, makes more sense dramati-cally when your eye is forced by the camera to narrow its focus. But what I'm really enjoying is the ballet DVDs, especially a series from the Paris Opera Ballet on TDK Mediactive. The focus, of course, is Rudolf Nureyev, who headed the POB for nearly a decade until his death from AIDS in 1993. His celebrity is such that his name in large letters on the DVD box is probably enough to sell it to the unwary.

However, I'm currently replaying two TDK ballet discs not be-

cause of Nureyev, but because of the POB's current male *etoile*, Manuel Legris. He danced here in 2001 when POB exchanged visits

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with San Francisco Ballet. I was taken with him then, but on the new complete Don Quixote, choreographed and staged by Nureyev in 1981, but refurbished and recast for this 2002 video and on Dancer's Dream, a documentary about re-staging Nureyev's 1984 Romeo and Juliet at the Paris Opera in 1999, Legris blows me away.

away.

He's not a big, hunky, muscle-bound dancer (I like them, too), but typical of the POB men, made in Nureyev's image, which means they are slender, lithe athletes with strong, flexible bodies. Legris rehearses much of Romeo wearing time "thousens" above and he's tiny "chase me" shorts, and his runner's legs are so slender you are amazed at how easily he throws his ballerina around. A short pas de deux between Romeo and Benvolio (handsome, boyish Yann Bridard) may cause drooling

in the susceptible. How like Rudy to include a homoerotic duet in the most heterosexual love story

the most heterosexual love story of all time.

The Romeo documentary includes the major duets for Romeo and Juliet (sensitive Elisabeth Maurin), talking heads including Legris (an animated blue-eyed redhead), Ezio Frigerio (designer of the ornate sets), and the Brits staging the piece: intense Patricia Ruanne (Rudy's original Juliet) and the laughing, bearded bear Frederic Jahn. There is also historical background on Prokofiev, the original Czech and Russian stagings, and POB production shots interspersed with the re-

hearsals.

As fascinating as this is, I'd have preferred a complete staged performance, which is what we get with Nureyev's Don Quixote, starring Legris and the most

beautiful ballering in the world. beautiful ballerina in the world, the French etoile Aurelie Dupont, who looks like Catherine Zeta-Jones. If you liked SFB's Don Q, you should love this opulent version. The sets and costumes are to die for, and the leads typify Nureyev's own elegant Kirov Bal-Nureyev's own elegant Airov Bal-let upbringing, rather than SFB's more bravura Bolshoi style. Dupont and Legris are teasingly romantic in Act I, erotically sen-sual in Act II and classically crisp in the famous Act III pas de deux. More, please. ▼

#### **Arthur Dona** ■ Arts cover

suspicious of Dong's camera, growls. The film then wittily jumps to a scene of Bremner's es-tranged adult lesbian daughter, Susan Jester, giving her dog obe-dience-training, and providing a rather different view of her moth-

There's a double irony in this moment. One, that Dong, who normally stays out of his frame, chose to include it all; and Two, it's a subtle reminder that, despite

it's a subtle reminder that, despite the enormity of the challenges he takes on, in the films of Arthur Dong, truth does prevail.

Just released on DVD in a handsomely packaged gift-box-set, three documentaries by Dong, Coming Out Under Fire, Licensed to Kill and Family Fundamentals, are available under the title Staries. are available under the title Stories from the War on Homosexuality. Each of the three discs contains a digitally remastered version of the original film plus an assortment of valuable extra features, including printed resource-guides for

each film.

Dong will present excerpts from the box-set on Friday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, 1800 Market St. The event is free to the public. Info: (415) 865-5555,

public. Info: (415) 865-5555, www.sfcenter.org.
In Coming Out Under Fire, based on Allan Bérubé's awardwinning book, Dong gets elderly gay and lesbian veterans of World War II to recall the rigors of being open about themselves in a time of officially sanctioned witch-



Guy Foti and David Jester in Family Fundamentals

conservative, remembers with conservative, remembers with feeling a superior officer asking him if he was "a cocksucker, a Jew faggot from New York." The film intercuts these harrowing memories with pointed excepts of the Congressional hearings that reversed President Clinton's order. versed President Clinton's order to rescind the ban on gays in the military and gave us the dangerously hypocritical "Don't ask, don't tell."

Coming Out Under Fire has an Coming Out Under Fire has an hour of superb bonus footage, in-cluding a very funny and quite poignant interview with Women's Army Corp Veteran and later outperformer Pat Bond, recorded three months before her death. Particularly informative is a print-ed timeline of "Don't ask, don't tell," commencing in 1778 with the first recorded dismissal from the US Army (then the Continen-tal Army) of a man having sex with another man, and continuing through this year with the General Accounting Office's official tally on the costs of the policy: \$258,397,701.

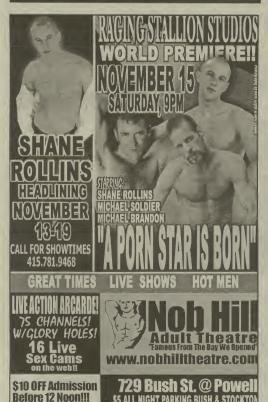
A pivotal, even life-changing moment in Dong's career occurred in a Tyler, Texas court-room, a moment that would eventually lead to his film *Licensed To Kill*, prison interviews with men convicted of killing homosexuals. "I attended the trial of a young man who was being accused of murdering a gay man," says Dong. "I sat in that court-room for weeks. Tyler's a small town, so it was very casual, it was very friendly, and, being Asian-American, I kind of stuck out. I struck up a relationship with the accused. A pivotal, even life-changing

accused.

"For me, physically, he was a very nice-looking young man, very polite and soft-spoken, and he was a human being, he wasn't a monster. It would have been easier for me if he had had green horns sticking out of his head. It struck me that here's this person who committed this heinous crime. I need to understand that. crime: I need to understand that That set me on my path to meeting other killers."

ing other killers."

Licensed To Kill is the film Dong has the largest personal investment in, due to his own fateful encounter with gay-bashers back in 1977 at the corner of Noe and 19th Streets. Dong has said that he's glad he didn't try and immediately translate his experience to film, but gave himself 20 years of training and research so that he could confidently confront seven men behind bars for killing gay





Dong (right) and historian Allan Bérubé discuss WWII with Sarah Davis.

## **Earthly delights**

'The Garden of Eden' out on DVD

by Matthew Kennedy

ere is an altogether delightful rarity from yesteryear.
The Garden of Eden began
as a German stage play, with the
rights bought by the delicate
beauty Corinne Griffith, who set
about finding top personnel for a
1928 silent-screen translation.
The result is a briskly paced bonbon of mistaken identities complicated by Cupid's arrows.
The Garden of Eden is another
relic to prove there are no new
stories, only new tellings. It begins
with naïve Toni LeBrun (Griffith),
who leaves Budapest in search of

who leaves Budapest in search of fame as an opera singer. She has ambition but no talent. Filled with untested self-confidence, Toni ventures to the Palais de Paris, where she meets up with ogling impresario Madame Bauer



previous page

men.

Dong explains that a key to Dong explains that a key to making the film was his ability to damp down his emotions. "During the process of interviewing these men and hearing them talk about people like me and hearing their justifications of murdering people like me, I was actually having feelings of gratitude to them that they were so frank to open up and share their stories with me, so I could bring them forth for the and share their stories with me, so I could bring them forth for the public to hear. That was my goal, for the public to really see the damage that people have done to their children through religious upbringing, educational conditioning or the media, politics, or many other social ills." Dong thinks that his ability to check his emotions during the interviews has contributed to the film's acceptance as a training tool for ceptance as a training tool for many law-enforcement agencies.

many law-enforcement agencies, including the FBI.

I have only a few minor complaints, quibbles really, with some of the text-based features on the discs in this box-set, mostly with Coming Out Under Fire. It's a complaint common to many DVD releases, that the text should be natrated or reproduced in

by Dreases, and the left should be narrated or reproduced in extra-large typeface.

The special features are especially critical to a full appreciation of Licensed To Kill. Among the additional feature is the special feature in the second of the second o ditional footage is a moving fol-low-up interview with Jay John-son, the young Minnesota bi-racial man who has at least intel-lectually come to grips with the tragic collision between his religious upbringing and his sexual desires, which resulted in the desires, which resulted in the death of two men, the maiming of a third, and his own wasted life behind bars. All of the prison interviews have a chillingly direct quality, as if they had been extracted directly from the Id of each convict. The booklet with Lieuns of the light operation. censed includes a lucid overview of anti-gay violence, "Blood Upon Them," from the Advocate's Washington correspondent Chris Bull, plus an up-to-date guide to antiviolence programs around the

violence programs around the country.

Thought-provoking stocking-stuffers for the well-informed queer household, the three docs are nonfiction filmmaking at its best, combining a search for truth with memorable portraits of sometimes disturbing real people.



(Maude George). We have in the Madame the progenitor of not one but two stock characters: the lecherous producer and the predatory dyke. George excels in the role, reveling in her duty to procure a penful of fresh, well-turned "squab" for the chorus line. Between Madame Bauer's designs and Toni LeBrun's delusions, it makes for a sprightly play on sex and show business, coupled with Toni's airs of responsipled with Toni's airs of responsi-bility that come with a swollen ego. But *The Garden of Eden* has just begun, and soon the action moves to Monte Carlo, where a bushel of men await, with designs on our heroine.

on our heroine.

The film was directed by Lewis
Milestone, who infuses the movie
with graceful tracking shots and
deep-focus mise-en-scène. When
the plot gets complicated by a
kindly wardrobe mistress (Louise
Dresser) which shiding a bit gestret. kindly wardrobe mistress (Louise Dresser) who's hiding a big secret, Garden of Eden appears to presage the sparkling comedies to come from Ernst Lubitsch and Preston Sturges. That's no coincidence: scenarist Hans Kraley also wrote several of Lubitsch's comedies. Milestone showed a well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed a well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed a well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed a well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy with Garbert and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for comedy and the second showed as well-developed knack for the second showed as well-developed knack for the second showed as well-developed knack for the sec oped knack for comedy with Gar-

den and Two Arabian Knights, a farce that won him a '27 Academy Award. But he is best remembered for '30's All Quiet on the Western Front, that antiwar, primal-scream masterpiece.

There are dated elements, to be

There are dated elements, to be sure. Griffith is charming, even if she is too old at 35 to play an ingénue. Charles Ray as love interest Richard Dupont is too doughy to be given such duties today. And all the men have on too much eyeshadow, blush, and lipstick, which was conventional then but looks ridiculous now. But the photography by pioneering John Arnold phy by pioneering John Arnold and art direction by wizard William Cameron Menzies are top-notch. If the plot lacks believability at certain key moments, remember that credibility was never a strong feature of the romantic comedy.

This new DVD from Flicker Alley offers worthwhile extras in addition to a shimmering remasaddition to a shimmering remastering of the best surviving elements. There are reproductions of lobby cards and press releases from the original 1928 press book. Limited cast biographies are on hand, too, but the plum extra is a 10-minute 1927 short called Hollywood the Unusual. called Hollywood the Unusual. Here is a travelogue with a roving camera taking in every bit of architectural whimsy that Hollywood had to offer at the time, with buildings inspired by native styles of Scotland, Morocco, Turkey, the Netherlands, Spain, Mexico, and Ancient Egypt. Never mind that this short has nothing to do with The Garden of Eden. Considering that virtually all buildings featured in Hollywood the Unusual have long since been razed, this movie ought to be added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as a vital document of an era long a vital document of an era long since passed. ▼







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**Image Leather** 





## Sashes aplenty last weekend

#### by Mister Marcus

everal sashes were placed on the chests of leather-contest winners over the past week-

In San Jose on Saturday night In San Jose on Saturday night they were whooping it up when one woman and two men vied for the Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather titles. There was a meet & greet at Renegades on Fri-day night, a swap meet on Satur-day afternoon, and the contest on Saturday eight.

Hosted by Snatch and Glen Tanking, the contest featured lots of entertainment, including Mi-randa von Stockhausen and another shapely cutie who executed some provocative belly dancing; later the Bald Men Tops were quite funny, and former Mr. SCCL Lonnie delivered a stirring national anthem and some up-beat tunes later on in the evening. One of Mama's boys, "Kohl",

and another gentleman were competing for the Mister title and one woman, "Sage", competed for the female title. When the judges' scores were tallied, "Kohl" and "Sage" both emerged as the winners. Each will (at their option) advance to compete at the next level.

Meanwhile in Ottawa, Canada, that vivacious Doug Conners sashed his successor in a com-petition that saw almost 500 people in attendance for the Mr. Leather Ottawa-Outaouais 2004 compe-

Former IML David Kloss was the head judge, with André Reny,

Visniowski and Sal
Perrone on the panel.
When it was all
over, Steven Hould emerged as the winner (he was the first runner-up in this same competition last

up in this same competition last-year) and advances to compete at IML next May.

For more details about the contest, wist the website www.ot-tawaknights.com.

Competitions also took place

in Fort Lauderdale (Mr. Florida Leather) and, at the other end of this state, Mr. Palm Springs



"Sage" (left) and "Kohl" were named Ms. and Mr. Santa Clara County Leather in San Jose last Saturday night, November 8. They advance to the next level of competition if they so choose.

Leather. At my deadline, I had re-ceived no report on the winners, or their photos.

#### Daddy's delight!

Last Wednesday and Thursday nights (Nov. 5 and 6) another milestone was reached as Daddy's Bar rolled out the red carpet for their 8th an-

niversary parties.

TJ Istvan and Sheba
entertained on Wednesday, and Donna Sachet was the feature on Thursday. Raffles

Thursday. Raffles were held, celebratory beverages were toasted, and on Wednesday, Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn was named "Employee of the Year" and on Thursday, former SF Leather Daddy Koester was named "Daddy of the Year." Both were very surprised and

Both were very surprised and both very deserving. Last year, Lenny Broberg was named to that title and his "step-ping aside" speech for the audi-ence and Tony was another exer-cise in "Can you top this?" It fea-

tured smarmy and extremely acidic punch lines hurled about while the audience roared. It was a fitting celebration for one of the Castro's most popular bars.

#### Coming your way

Coming your way

This coming weekend, more sashes will be bestowed on people who judges will select for advancement. Up at the Russian River, Mr. Northcoast Leather will be chosen during the weekend (contest is Sat. night).

In Long Beach, California, Kurt Pierce will sash his successor at the Mr. Pistons Leather contest on Saturday night also and in Vancouver, Canada, Mr. BC Leather will be chosen while Sheryl Dee will sash her successor in eryl Dee will sash her successor in San Diego as Ms. San Diego Leather is chosen.

Hopefully, producers will send photos. I will be up at the Russian River so you can rest assured you'll be the first to get the results. In the meantime, to keep up on leather news all over the country, be sure to regularly click on www.LeatherPage.com. ▼

#### EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Folsom Street Events will distribute proceeds from the Dore Alley Fair and Folsom Street Fair to the beneficiaries tonight at a reception in the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Union Square (480 Sutter) from 1900 to 2100. If you plan on attending, coat/tie and formal leather advised.

#### Weekend, November 14-16

Mr. Northcoast Leather in Guerneville; Mr. BC Leather in Vancouver, Canada; Mr. Pistons Leather in Long Beach; and MS. San Diego Leather in San Diego.

#### Saturday, November 15

Golden Gate Guards meet & greet in back bar of the Eagle Tavern from 1900-2100 with a showing of their Camp Mendocino bike run in October.

Meet these guys and maybe you'll want to join. For info: 415-276-4847.

Ms. Alameda County Leather Robbi presents a men & women fetish fashion auction at the Rainbow Room in Hayward. For more info, call (510)

Tony Koester hosts food and toy drive with a beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800. \$8 donation, surprises, raffles.

#### Wednesday, November 19

Skivvies Heaven at 933 Harrison as Underwear Buddies compare their flys and trap doors. Doors open 2100-2300.

#### Saturday, November 22

SF Leather Sir Tom Braddock's Beyond Leather Dome at Club Rendezvous at 2100 and leather celebs and "personalities" — a benefit for several

AIDS agencies.

Under One Roof beer/soda bust at the Eagle at 2000 tonight with the men of Raging Station selling/autographing DVDs to benefit that agency with Lenny Broberg and Snatch doing the honors and the porn actors.

#### Week, November 20-26

The DC Eagle celebrates their 32nd anniversary all week culminating with the Mr. DC Eagle competi-tion. Larry Barat steps aside and we're all wonder-ing if Troy Anicete will be there for the step-down

## Tiaras by the Bay

## 'Show of Stars' & Tenderloin Tessie's

by Sweet Lips

ave yourself a royal good time! Marlena's will be packed with lords and ladies in a scintillating "Show of Stars" on Saturday, November 15, as the San Francisco Imperial Family of Absolute Empresses, led by Empresses Phyllis XVI and Maxine VIII, and the Imperial Council of San Francisco process to present a stellar array of forces to present a stellar array of Council of San Francisco join forces to present a stellar array of talent. The show features a cast of characters including Ronnie Lynn, Davida, Anjelica Devarox, Victoria Secret, Manley Lennox, Tia, Toby, Fernando, Robb Esmondo, Lola Lust, Patti LaBelle, China Silk, Keith Bumpo, Larry Cook, and Faberge.

The event is a benefit for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Empress of San Francisco, and the festivities begin at 10 p.m. at Marlena's, 488 Hayes St. Call 864-6672 if you need more details.

Speaking of fundraisers, on Saturday, November 22, Pushy Phyllis, Hal Gage and Ima Blaster will present a star-studded "12th Annual Flundraiser for the Ton-

will present a star-studded "12th Annual Fundraiser for the Ten-derloin Tessie's Holiday Dinner" at Mr. Lee-Ona's, the popular lounge located at 301 Turk St. in the heart of the 'loin. There will be a raffle, an auction, a holiday ham and a sassy show. Call Pushy Phyllis at 863-5277 to donate time

The leather community's Tom Basch, who serves as President of Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners, says volunteers will be needed at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary) on

Wednesday, November 26, 4-7 p.m. for kitchen and set-up; and on Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, 11 a.m.-4
p.m. for dining room,
and 4-6 p.m. for
clean-up.
For close to **Cocktail Hour** 

30 years, Tender-loin Tessie Holiday dinners, an allvolunteer organization, has worked hard to prepare, serve and feed the community of San Francisco. They give a welcoming, hot meal to the elderly, disabled, dis-placed, families with children, and the homeless, always including the alone and lonely who do not have a family or a place to go, who are searching for a sense of compas-sion for these special holidays. Often the dinners are served with entertainment. Members of

the leather community, the drag community, politicians and all

who care attend to the guests, which is a sit-down affair with a family atmosphere. A typical holiday dinner consists of ham or turkey, salads, bread, vegetables, yams, potatoes, stuffing, dessert and beverage. Gift bags include such items as snacks, juice or soda, an energy bar, candy and toiletries. To volunteer, contact Toby at 255-7503 or Tom Basch at 922-0422.

Basch at 922-0422. Finally, I want to invite

everyone to join me on Saturday, November

29, at Club Rendez-Vous to brate my 81st birthday! Yes, it's

that time again, so come on down from 2-7 p.m. and enjoy delec-table edibles catered by Chef Den-

We have more birthdays to celebrate this month, including L. James and Gene Fry on Nov. 22, and of course the *BAR*'s political editor, Wayne Friday, on Nov. 26!

In other bar news: Michael Valdez is now working Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. to Noon at the Pendulum, as well as Saturday and Sunday, same hours at the Twin Peaks Tavern. Drop in for a drink and tell him Lips sent you! ▼









# The guys have it

### Male singer/songwriters out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

ne of the predominant music scenes in 2003 has been the presence of the male singer/songwriter. While they may not be enjoying the same level of attention as postboy-band member Justin Timber-lake or tattooed and pierced faux punk-rockers Good Charlotte, they are out there, making good

In title and in sound, "Deli-The annual module, Den-cate," the opening track of Damien Rice's debut album O (Vector/DRM), sums up what you can expect to hear throughout the album. Stunning yet stripped-down arrangements allow Rice's emotive vocals to shine through. Rice's songs reinforce the folk essence in popular music. Closing track "Eskimo," with its lush or-chestration and operatic vocal provided by Doreen Curran, is

hot enough to keep any igloo at a comfortable temperature. Given the unlikely job of being the opening act for musical broth-er act Hanson's summer 2003 comeback tour, singer/songwriter Teitur (pronounce tie tore) handled it with grace. On his debut disc Poetry & Aeroplanes (Universal), the Faroe Islands (near Densail, me raroe islands (hearl Den-mark) native recalls early Paul Simon on songs such as "I Was Just Thinking" and "Shade of a Shadow." The 25-year-old Gio-vanni Ribisi lookalike also ex-hibits an ability to craft catchy,

upbeat pop tunes.

Not everyone is a serious guy with a guitar and a message. Take Liam Lynch, for instance. In "S.O.S.," the opening track on Fake Songs (S-Curve), Lynch sings, "I don't even know whose house this is/I just know that I'm

a friend of a friend of his." This sets the tone for this party-crash-er's collection of hilarious but rocking tunes. A musical chameleon, Lynch steps into and clomps around in some pretty big shoes in his knockoffs of Bjork, Ziggy-era David Bowie, Depeche Mode, Frank Black and company,

And the state of t

#### Sloppy seconds

Some guys released second albums in 2003 with mixed results. Will Hoge sounds like he could step up and fill in for Adam Duritz of Counting Crows if Duritz were having dreadlock drama. His soulful vocals on the dozen songs of Blackbird on a Lonely Wire (Atlantic) have a commercial polish that should give them a considerable shelf-life. Sexy singer/song-writer Pete Yorn made quite a splash with his 2001 debut album Musicforthemorningafter. Not as instantly accessible as its predecessor, Day I Forgot (Columbia) does contain interesting cuts such as the country-rock tinged "Come Back Home." *Chinese Vacation* (98 Pounder), the second album by

Steve Poltz, who co-wrote "You Were Meant for Me" with Jewel, contains a surprising cover of TLC's "Waterfalls." The remaining Poltz originals remind us, in spite of what you think of Jewel, that Poltz io: greative converse.

of what you think of Jewel, that Poltz is a creative songwriter.
Many of these guys owe a debt of gratitude to the late, lamented Jeff Buckley. Buckley, who drowned in 1997, had a gift for soaring, dramatic vocals. He performed original songs, and transformed the songs of others including Leonard Cohen. Van formed the songs of others including Leonard Cohen, Van Morrison, Alex Chilton, and Nina Simone. Originally released as a four-song EP, Live at Sin-E (Columbia) has now been expanded into a double-disc, 38-track live set that also includes a bonus DVD with interview and performance footage. This "deluxe edition" confirms what so many people already knew, which is that we tragically lost a great artist whose potential

knew, which is that we tragically lost a great artist whose potential was yet to be fully realized.

If you'd rather not be bothered with words, then I suggest The Mess We Made (Merge) by Matt Elliott (aka Third Eye Foundation), an atmospheric, ambient eightrack disc that is as ominous as it is comforting. "The Sinking Ship Song," the one song with lyrics, has the potential to drive even the

Song, the one-song with lytics, has the potential to drive even the most hardcore teetotaler to drink. Also bear in mind recent releases such as the double-disc set Leaving the Lights On (Wingbone) by Prince sound-alike Kevin So; the self-situd dobut disc beautics by the self-situd dobut disc beautics by the self-situd dobut disc beautics beautics. by Prince sound-alike Kevin So; the self-titled debut disc by cute "new country" guy Jimmy Wayne (Dreamworks); and David Grubbs' Rickets & Scurry (Drag City), which features collaborations with writer Rick (The Ice Storm) Moody and musical guests such as John McEntire (Tortoise) and openly gave electronic due nd openly gay electronic duc latmos.



## Calendare by Mark Mardon



Victoria Secret as an evil Shirley Temple at "Fauxgirls"

## Old-school divas

very straight tourist to San Francisco wants to see a drag show, but now where do they go? Since the demise in 1999 of Finnochio's in North Beach, where "female impersonators" had been a tourist mainstay since 1936, drag seekers have sought alternatives, with varying results. Those who somehow wind up at Heklina's "Trannyshack" tend to be appalled by the new-school drag on display, which to mainstreamers can look like a bunch of art-school fags run amok. Those who seek genuine old-school "civilized" drag usually wind up at Club Rendez-Vous, Divas, Aunt Charlie's Lounge, or Marlena's, where all the old-school gals tend to congregate. It's at the latter, martsy Hayes Valley, where last Saturday night I augh. F. uxgr. is, "San Francisco's reigning old-school drag show. The descendent of Victoria ("We hate drag queens who can sing livel") Secret's long-running "En Drag" show, "Fauxgirls" caters to a largely straight crowd—including many couples—who thrill at mixing with trannies and mild-mannered homosexuals.

Victoria Secret looks and acts the role of an aging madam running a brothel, right down to her gravelly voice. Her performers do everything they can to vamp and look like ladies of the night, some higher class than others. With her double chins and plus-size glittery outfits tight on her ample hips, Secret runs the show with an abundance of chatter aimed largely at getting patrons to drink upl That's how Marlena's makes money, she points out. And the performers? She indicates the tip jar, and watching the girls dive for the thing at the end of their numbers becomes (perhaps unintentionally) part of the antics.

Miss Anjelica Devarox kicked things off by welcoming everyone to Havana by way of a hot Latin number. With red ribbons in her piles of red curls, she was wearing a salsa skirt with an obsidian top, her hefty bosom bouncing to the beat, and the number earned a hearty applause.

Chanel, in platinum wig, wearing a busty burgundy velvet skin-

Chanel, in platinum wig, wearing a busty burgundy velvet skin-tight dress with a trailer, with matching necklace and earrings, sang "When I'm With My Baby", but kept getting out of sync. How hard

"When I'm With My Baby", but kept getting out of sync. How hard is it to remember lyrics?

Alexandria, her long dark-blonde hair flowing down to the middle of her back, looking ravashing in a slinky dark-blue, sequiny outfit, sang an Ertha Kitt number with the bubbly refrain: "With my champagne taste and your beer bottle pocket..." and oozed sexiness as she mingled with the audience, flirting with the straight men.

The evening's most riviting performance came from Finnochio's veteran Nikki Star, outfitted in a mass of silvery sequins flowing off her ample torso, her mobile features sweaty under the spotlight as she belted out "Free Again" to a rousing reception.

Anjelica returned for a jazzy number asking the musical question: "Why don't you do it like other men do?" In that sultry number, outfitted in a tight black spangly thang, she shook her but long and hard, and some straight men wanted to pinch it!

The plainest of the lot was Miss Sophilya. In her first number she wore something of a peasant dress to sing a rock number. With her slender figure and a tasteful crucifix dangling on a simple necklace, she seemed earthy and innocent, a shepherdess among the foxes of the whorehouse.

Chanel redeemed herself when she came out in a fabulous Vegas-

Chanel redeemed herself when she came out in a fabulous Vegas-style costume with a wild headdress adorned with what looked like a mirrored slice of moon amidst silvery branches. With a white boa around her shoulders, she sang Leanne Rymes' disco hit "Starlight," and gained the crowd's respect.

For Alexandria's second sogg, done in shades, a black trench coat, and stiletto heels, she vamped like Madonna in heat, her exposed black bra nearly bursting, her fierce, fiery eyes burning into the men she cruised. She then led the night's "Drag Tag," in which three tourists — two guys and a gal — took part in an drag contest that was pure silliness, but it certainly warmed the crowd's cockles. 

\*\*Toda \*\*Tod

## 'Hot Rods & Hot Pants

© Luna Sea Theater
Tramy Fest and Fresh Meat Productions present "Mot Rods and
Hot Pants Cabaret." Featuring
tramy glam rockers, homo hoppers, gender outlaws, and boots
sakin' burlesque. Starring Sean
Dorsey, Michelle Garcia, Jenk D,
Katastrophe, Other Brothers, Jaycub Perez, Seeley Quest, Robosapien, Shawna Virago, The Diamond Daggers, and the Transcendence Gospel Choir. Emcess:
Tina D'Elia and Prado Gomez.
Produced by Sean Dorsey, 58-12
sliding scale, at the door. 8 pm.
Luna Sea Theater, 2940 16th St.
(brium Van Ness & Capp), 2nd
floor. @ Luna Sea Theater

#### 'Hirschfeld's Broadway: A Sing-Along' @ SFPALM

Broadway: A SingAlong' @ SFPALM
In conjunction with its current exhibition, Hirschfeld: A Centennial
Celebration, the San Francisco
Performing Arts Library & Museum presents Hirschfeld's Froadway: a Sing-Along, Lead by music
director Brandon Adams and a
company of singers including Dani
Marcus (Beach Blanket Babylon),
the evening will focus on the great
Broadway musicals, performers,
and composers and lyricists featured in the exhibition. Backed by
projections of legendary theatre
caricaturist Hirschfeld's drawing of such luminaries as Carol Channing, Robert Preston, Julie Andrews, Zero Mostel, and Ethel
Merman, and productions ranging
from Show Boat to Sweeney Todd,
the singers will perform the classic musical theatre songs by composers ranging from Kern and
Porter to Rodgers and Sondheim,
and will distribute lyric sheets for
the audience to join in. \$15 gen't;
\$10 students/SFPALM members.

8pm. Veterans Bidas, 401 Van
Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th
floor. Tix/info: 255-4800;
www.sfpalm.org

\*Sex & Politics' 1 @

'Sex & Politics' 1 @ 848 Community Space 848 presents night one of its 12th Anniversary Shows, "Sex & Politics," presenting creative acts of pleasure and resistance and daring and outrageous performances celebrating the pro-sex lineage of 848. Tonight's artists: Jess Curis (internationally acclaimed dancer & choreographer); victoria mcni-ohl kelly (poet, visual & performing artist); Katy Bell (performance artist & erotic clown); Med-0 (musician & co-founder of 848); Samsara (radical political a capella trio with Special Guests); Meliza Bañales (slam poet with the "sense of humor of a Jack-knile"); and Mattilda (writer, instigator & queer activist). \$10: \$20: sliding (NOTAFLOF). Bpm. 848 Divisadero (at McAllister). Tits: 922-2385; www.848.com. 'Sex & Politics' 1 @

#### 'Dances for Dangerous Times'

Dangerous Times'
@ ODC Theater
Spinning Yarns Dance Collective
(SYCD) and Jenice Acosta Movers
(JAM) present "Dances for Dangerous Times," with works by
choreographers Susan Donham,
Marisa Pugliano, and Jenice
Acosta. Eight dances will explore
two very human responses to difficult times: first, the expression of
rage and frustration that leads to
action; second, the insistence that
hope and kindness will keep our
heads above water. \$15. 8pm.
Also Nov. 15. 3153 17th St.
Tix/infic: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org

#### 'Trucker Rhapsody @ EXIT Stage Left

@ EXIT Stage Left First Seen, the Bay Area producing playwrights' collective, presents Trucker Rhapsody, Tonl Press-Coffman's original drama about the 1992 LA riots and their lingering effect on the lives of Reginald Denny, the trucker assaulted at the corner of Florence and Normandie, and Damian Williams, one of the men imprisoned for attacking Denny, Directed by Katherine Murphy, \$15-\$20 sliding (Thursdays are "pay what you can"). Thur Sat, 8pm. 156

Eddy St. Tix/info: 821-2418; tick-etweb.com. Info: www.firstseen.org

#### 'ReOrient' @ New Langton Arts

@ New Langton Arts
Golden Thread Productions Presents Redrient, "The Fifth Annual
Festival of Short Plays: Exploring
he Middle East." Wwo alternating
programs (Series 1, Thu & Sat;
Series 2, Fri & Sun). Tonight (Series 2): Security by Israel
Horovitz, directed by Hal Gelb;
The Terrorists by Jim Brightwolf,
directed by Don Cate, Bagagae by
Tathe Samih Sazam, directed by
Christopher Morrison; and Karima's City by Yussef El Guindi
from a story by Salwa Bakr, dircreted by Arten Hood. \$18 (\$12
student/Sentor). Bym (7pm Sun).
Thu-Sun Thru Nov 23, 1246 Folsom St. Tix/info: \$10-986-9194;
goldenthread.org

Wayne Smith

#### Wayne Smith @ Gallery 16

Opening reception: "Wayne Smitth: New Work Old Work," with DJs Cliff Hengst & Scott Hewicker, plus release of new aero-mic'd CD. Smith creates digital landscape images obscured by hand markings and digital noise. Prints in edition of ten. Each print signed and numbered. Free. 6-ppm. 1616 16th St. (at Kanasa), 3rd Floor. Info. 626-7495; www.urbandigitalcolor.com

### Arthur Dong

Arthur Dong

The Center
The SF LGBT Community Center presents "An Evening with Documentary Filmmaker Arthur Dong," offering highlights from his new DVD box-set, The Arthur Dong Collection, Vol. 2: Stories from the War on Homosexuality (www.DeepFocusProductions.com), including the award-winning documentaries Coming Out Under Fire, Licensed to Kill, and Family Fundamentals. A native San Franciscan, Dong has made a name as a filmmaker chronicling the culture wars of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. Co-sponsored by PFLAG, CUAV, and Alexander Hamilton Post 448. Free. 7:30pm. Rainbow Room, SD LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), Info: 865-55555; www.sfcenter.org

#### **Edmund White** @ ACWLP for Books

@ ACWLP for Books
Edmund White reads from Fanny,
offering an imaginary portrait of
one of America's earliest feminitst, Fanny Wright. This mock
blography, "written" by Mrs.
Frances Trollope (mother of the
British novelist Anthony Trollope),
is an account of their real-life
friendship and rivalry. Free. 7pm.
A Clean Well-Lighted Place for
Books, 601 Van Ness Ave. Info:
441-6670.



NYC drag Superstar Hedda Lettuce is Joan Crawford, and Jef Valentine is Christina in "Christmas With The Crawfords" at Theatre Rhino. See Thursday.

#### Zne Trone @ Booksmith

@ Booksmith
Zoe Trope reads from Please
Don't Kill the Freshman, a high-school-student's unforgettable
memoir. She was born in 1986
and graduated from high school
with the class of 2003, and while
she was a student she created a
storm with her blistering, hilarious, tragic comment on the state
of high school in America. Trope
is a delight! Free. Tpm. 1644
Haight St. Info: 86-3-688; booksmith.com

#### Monkey Book Press @ Modern Times Bookstore

Bookstore

An evening of poetry with Monkey
Book Press authors Trina Alexander and Jennifer Fox Bennett.
Monkey Productions brings together the arts of filip and writing
as educational tools and resources
for curricula to support female
artists of color by providing opportunities for collaborations.
Free. 7.30pm. 888 Valencia
Street. Info: www.moderntimesbookstore.com

Suspect Thoughts Press @ The Center Press @ The Center
Terrible Infants Book Release
Party. Emce Kirk Read hosts a
star-studded evening of erotic
readings celebrating the release of
new collections by Suspect
Thoughts Press authors Ian
Philips (Satyriasis: Literotica2)
and Grey Marton (Johnny Was
and Other Tall Tales). Special
guest readers include Charlie Anders, Patrick Califfa, Patsy Hatt,
Thea Hillman, Simon Sheppard,
and horehound stillpoint. \$5-\$15
sliding, 8pm (7pm reception): At
the LGBT Center. Info: www.harveymilk.org



#### Lunatique Fantastique @ NCTC

Q NCTC
Opening night: New Conservatory
Theatre Center and Lunatique
Fantastique, the hit puppet ensem
ble, present The Construction
Cabaret, written by Liebe Wetzel
with the ensemble, and directed by
Tracy Ward. This hardware burlesque features the Lunf an ladies
in riveting and wrenching tales
from objects found in toolboxes.
Mature content for adults only.
Some objects found in toolboxes.
Mature content for adults only.
Some objects will appear naked,
and some body parts will appear naked,
and some body parts will appear
naked. \$30 opening night w/postshow reception; \$15-\$20 other
nights. 8pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness
Ave. (near Market). Tix/info; 861
8972; www.nctesf.drg/ 18J

## 'Sex & Politics' 2 @

'Sex & Politics' 2 @ 848 Community Space 848 presents night two of its 12th Anniversary Shows, "Sex & Politics." Tonight's arists. Keith Hennessy & Seth Eyzen (popular SF performance artists); Jade-Blue Eclipse (hand balancer & contortionist extraordinaire); Mary Ann Brooks (singer, writer & dancer); Uchechi Kalu (outspeken poet, teacher & artist); Carol Queen (sex goddess of San Francisco); Thea Hillman (slam poetry champion) and Simone de la Gett & the Harlem Shake Burlesque (delightful burlesque distraction). \$10-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 84B Divisadero (at McAllister), Tixfinfo: 922-2385; www.848.com

#### 'Trannyfest' @ Roxie Cinema

® Roxie Cinema

"Trannyfest Film and Video Festival," an all-day extravaganza offering 26 film and video premierest. This is the heart of Trann;
Fest. Six groundbreaking
film/video programs, beginning
with a Youth and Family Show at
10m, followed by programs at
20m, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, and 10pm,
55 for 1pm Trans Youth and Family Show, Rated Pc. S8 for all
other programs. Special Tranny
Fest pass valid for admission to
all six programs. Tix & passes at
Roxie Cinema Box Office only.
The Roxie Cinema Box Office only.
The Roxie Cinema, 31.17 16th St.
(at Valencia). Info: www.trannyfest.com

#### 'Hvena Homo Comedy Hour'

When Playhouse
The Hyena Comedy Institute presents "The Hyena Homo Comedy four," featuring a lineup of hysterical gay and lesbian standup comics: Heather Gold; Joey rose; Neo Veavez; Adam Jacobson; Dana Cory; Shelly Steward; and special guests. Hosted by Ronn Vign. 35. 10pm. 2390 Mission St. (at 20th St.), #304. Tix/info. 821-3601.

'Thrive' @ The Center "Thrive" coffee with plenty of open, strong, wonderful HIV + people to hang out with. \$1 donation cups of coffee and occasional homebaked goodles with all proceeds going to the Center. 1-3pm. 1st & 3rd Saturdays at the LGBT Center, 1800 Market.



Opie Bellas jazzes up the Plush Room. See Sunday.

## Sun 16

#### Endup's 30th Anniversary Celebration @ The Endup

#### @ The Plush Room

Chili Cook-Off

@ Lone Star Saloon
Is yours hot enough? Bring your
favorite pot of chili to The LoneStar Saloon's "Chili Cook-Off" to
find out if it's up to snuff! This
tasty South of Market event is
hosted by Tish Crabb, Miss Cowgirl 2003. You go cowgirl Proceeds benefit the Monarch's Charity Fund. 4-Spm. 1354 Harrison
St. (btwn 9th & 10th).

### SF Prime Timers + Gerard Koskovich

@ Unitarian Church
San Francisco Prime Timers (the
former G40+ Club) welcomes Gerard Koskovich, a board member of
the GLBT Historical Society, the
umbrella for the GLBT Archives,
the GLBT Library (not to be confused with the Hormel Collection of
the SF Public Library), and the International Museum of GLBT History. At this meeting the group will
present the Archives with the banner of the G40+ Club, 2-4pm,
First Unitarian Universalist
Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary).
Info: 552-1997. @ Unitarian Church

## don

#### San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus 25th Anniversary Concert @ Davies Symphony Hall

## Remembering Harvey' © Eureka Valley/ Harvey Milk Library Reception & Open House: The Eu-reka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Libray presents "Remem-bering Harvey," hosted by Susan Stryker of the GLBT Historical



AXIS Dance Company and choreographer Victoria Marks celebrate 15 years of works created by dancers with and without disabilities. At YBCA Forum. See Thursday.

Society. Come eat, drink and share your houghts and memories of Harvey Milk. And don't miss the Exhibition: "Remembering Harvey Milk 1930—1978," with photographs, letters, artifacts from the Harvey Milk Archives—Scott Smith Collection. This Exhibit honors Harvey Milk and his relationship to the Castro Neighborhood. Free. 6;30-8:30pm. 3555—16th St. Info: 355-5616.

### 'From Porn to Poetry' @ Red Devil Lounge

Prom Porn to Poetry

@ Red Devil Lounge
Cleantheets.com and Writers
With Drinks present "From Porn
To Poetry." An Evening of Erotic
Stonies and Poetry," offering sexy
words by some of the Bay Area's
hottest literary performers. Featuring Susannah Indigo, editor of
Cleantheets.com and SlowTrains.com; Greg Wharton,
editor of Suspect Thoughts Press
AlowTrains.com; Greg Wharton,
editor of Suspect Thoughts Press
and author of Johnny Was; Juba
Kalamka, performance poet and
hip-hop performer from the Deep
Dickollective; Tan Philips, Lambda-award winning erotic writer,
author of Satyriasis and See Dick
Deconstruct; Tarin Towers, curator of "Chick Nite," and Pushcart
Prize-winning author of Sorry
We're Close; Bill Noble, Cleansheets fiction editor; and Jennie
Orvino, Somoma performance poet
and peace activist. Later, Lillith
Fair veteran Rachael Sage performs; if you pay to get into
"Porn to Poetry," you can stay
and hear Rachael for no extra
charge! All proceeds benefit other
magazine (www.othermag.org)
SS-57 siding; 7:30-9:30pm. The
Red Devil Lounge, 1695 Polk St.
Info: 921-1695.

## yed

#### @ Magnet

@ Magnet
Debut: "Smack Dab," a new open
inc series hosted by Kirk Read
and Larry-bob Roberts, making
the Castro safe for performance
again! All genders welcomed and
adored. Bring five minutes of
words, music, comedy or miscellany, plus your charm, magic, and
a cheerful Can-do attitude. Or just
come watch and cheer on.
Tonight's featured performers are
both newcomers to SF: The Urban
Hermitt (writer, hip hop performer, moved here from Seattle
by way of Colorado, author of The
Flow Chronicles from Microcosm
Publishing); and Robin Akimbo
(writer/performer/visual artist
originally from Montreal). Free.
Tym signup; 7:30pm show. All
happening at Magnet, the brand
new gay men's neighborhood
health center, 4122 18th St.
(btvm Castro & Collingwood).
Infc: 581-1600).
www.magnetsf.org

"Beach Blanket

## Beach Blanket Babylon' @ Club Fugazi Opening night: "Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon Seasonal Extravaganza" kicks off with a chorus line of tap dancing Christ-

mas trees, parodies of traditional Christmas carols, and a gigantic Vuletide hat. Snow White continues her fast-paced musical tour around the world in search of a prince and encounters a star-studded line-up of hilarous characters along the way. \$25-\$70. Wed. & Thu. 8pm; Fri. & Sat. 7 & 10pm; Sun. 3pm (signed performance) & 7pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. Tix: 421-4222.

'Twilight' @ Soluna
Cafe & Lounge
Enjoy "Twilight," a weekly
Wednesday night of exquisite, sultry, midtempo tunes orchestrated
behind. a lush tapestry of organic
visuals. Air filled with music by
DJS Swiri, Mak and Level. Room
set aglow by visual artists Benny
and special guests. Sumptuous
California cuisine, superb cocktails, excellent people. No cover.
6-10pm. 272 McAllister (at
Larkin), Civic Center Plaza. Info;
621-2200; www.solunaSF.com

## Ibu

#### 'Christmas with the Crawfords' @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Crawfords'

Theatre Rhinoceros
Preview: Theatre Rhinoceros and Artful Circle Theatre present.
Christians With The Crawfords
Starring Hedda Lettuce as Joan
Crawford. Created by Richard
Winchester. Written by Mark
Sargent. Directed by Donna
Drake. It's Christians Ewe, 1944.
Joan has recently been "Vired"
from MGM, and is looking forward to the live radio broadcast
from her Breitwood mansion, to
be hosted by her friend & gossip
monger, Hedda Hopper. Suffice it
to say the broadcast does not go
well. Joan is plagued by problems
including the never-ending arrival
and, Gloria Swamson, Hattie McDaniel, Carmen Miranda and
Ethel Merman who take over the
spotlight to sing their favorite holiday songs. \$15-\$25. Show runs
Now. 20-Jan. 3. Opening Nights:
Sat. Nov. 22 & Sun. Nov. 23.
Showtimes: Wed-Sat. at 8pm;
Sun. eves at 7pm; Sun. mats at
4pm (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 &
28). No performances on Thanksgiving (1)127), Xmas Day (12/23). The
Show on Fri. 11/28 will start at
8:30pm. Straight Night Out:
Thurs, Dec. 11 at 8pm. The
Rhino, 2926 16th St. (Mission &
So. Van Ness). Tixinfio: 861
5079; www.therhino.org

AXIS Dance Co. &

Withstaria. Manuel.

#### AXIS Dance Co. & Victoria Marks @ YBCA Forum

#### Henk Verhoef

@ Church of St. John In concert: Henk Verhoef of the Sweelinck Conservatory in Ams-terdam performs a varied organ program representing works of Scattlit, Gabrielli, Fischer, Sweelinck, Jongen, and van der Horst. \$10. 7:30pm. Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St. (at Julian).

#### Rafael Campo, MD @ UCSF

@ UCSF
Acclaimed physician/poet Rafael
Campo discusses his career as an
out gay Cuban American physiclan and reads from his Lambda
Award-winning poetry and memoirs. Free. 12-1pm. Toland HIJ,
UCSF, 533 Parnassus Ave. Info:
UCSF LGBT Resources, 505593; www.ucsf/edu/cge/lgbtr

#### Alex Sanchez

@ Books Inc., Castro
Bold new voice Alex Sanchez continues the story begun in his critically acclaimed debut Rainbow
Boys with Rainbow High, Reaching out to gay youth, this captivaing and straightforward youngadult novel tells the stories of
three young men and their coming
to terms with what it means to be
young and gay. A portion of the
sales of Alex Sanchez's books during this event will benefit. The
LGBT Community Center's Youth
Drop-in Program. Free. 7:30pm.
Books Inc., 2275 Market St. Info:
864-6777.

#### WANNA SUBMIT?

event listings to:

Mark Mardon Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.





## Don't worry, be happy

### Artist Donna Ozawa at the Oakland Museum

by Kevin Davis

akland Museum of California (OMC) Fall Artist-in-Residence Donna Keiko Ozawa has an instinct to comfort, rehabilitate and gratify audiences. Her folksy medicinal art-cures are prescribed to assuage romantic, career and family anxieties. Ozawa has organized a Dec. 13 interactive Art Health Fair at the Oakland Museum. The show follows her wider Crank Therapy mission to fight alienation from and the lack of value assigned to art in American culture today. "Art is a vitamin" she said in a Her folksy medicinal art-cures are

art in American culture today.
"Art is a vitamin," she said in a
recent interview. "People don't
have enough tactile experiences
and physical feedback in their
lives. Being able to touch something is part of the human condition. We are naturally faccinated. thing is part of the human condi-tion. We are naturally fascinated by and need that." As Dr. Crank, Ozawa prescribes inexpensive crank-operated designs consisting of reclaimed doohickeys. "The serious central thread through all of my art is to exam-ine, exposé, deconstruct and change culture," said the third-generation lapanese American. In

generation Japanese American. In the Oakland Chinatown studio she shares with furniture

craftswomen, Ozawa displays her toolboxes full of garage sale-bought doll and dollhouse parts. She pairs a tiny Barbie business pump with a scary monster action-figure, and joins them to her signature miniature crank.

Her local colleagues also offer a menu of health services. Doctor Diagram (Indigo Som. Ozawa's

Diagram (Indigo Som, Ozawa's partner of 13 years, and creator of poetic minimalist installations) diagrams sentences for couples and families. Doctor Boo-Boo (Lynne-Rachel Altman) diagnoses the source of physical or mental pain and creates customized Band-aids. Peter E.V. Allen urges patients to speak, shout or whisper prescribed words or written directions into wall-mounted, acoustic tile-lined boxes.

Ozawa grew up near the Western Addition's corner of Pine St. poetic minimalist installations)

ern Addition's corner of Pine St. and Presidio Ave. After earning her Mount Holyoke Latin American Studies BA and working her way through Cuba and Central America, she spent seven years supporting battered women's services, advocating AIDS education and outreach, and creating the first federally subsidized familyinclusive queer youth substance-abuse prevention program at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Clinic, while spending nights per-forming at the old Valencia St. feminist Artemis Cafe's open mic nights, and once onstage at Pride Day. "It's amazing what we were able to pull off," said Ozawa, 40. "People were suffering and griev-

#### Lyric beginnings

Lyric heginnings
Ozawa and friend Beth Kivel founded the queer youth group LYRIC. From its roots as an empowering Friday night peer-based rap group in an MCC-rented room, today LYRIC has a paid staff of 19, and provides leadership opportunities through its academic tutoring, health clinic, and arts & media programs in its own property on Collingwood St. Ultimately, Ozawa wearied on social work's 60-hour workweeks, marathon meetings and en-

marathon meetings and en-trenched internal career-politick-ing. "I was committed and pas-sionate about my work, but I was-n't getting fed by it," she said. After studying information arts at SF State, Ozawa earned a

arts at SF State, Ozawa earned a Chicago Art Institute Sculpture MFA in two years, scraping by on student-aid loans. She got into art as social commentary. She created a commentary on being Asian on the Web called the Asian Yel-Law Bares, She have hardled 3,000. low Pages. She has handled 3,000-year-old artifacts as an in-staller/mountmaker at the Asian Art Museum, and has contributed to group shows in Baltimore,



Artist Donna Keiko Ozawa shows off her recycled art installation, Help 1

Chicago and Tokyo. Ozawa uses her activist motives to combat the

idea of art as a status symbol.
Selected for OMC's residency
for her teaching experience and active art practice, she leads work-shops with 500 K-8 students and 60 gifted students from the rigor-ously academic Visual Art Academy, inspiring them to create works on the theme of public and private self for future display in an

OMC-juried exhibition.
Ozawa's new work, created onsight, addresses the museum's absence of art exploring the WWII forced relocation of Japanese-Americans to prison camps. Looters stole her grandparents' laundromat's washing machines durants' but to the stole of the ing their internment. A twist of spiked metal graphically symbol-izes incarceration and political vi-

Ozawa's work shares features with the past century's inventors of kinetic sculpture, such as the machinelike, motor-driven, improvisational constructions of Swiss artist Jean Tinguely; or Marcel Duchamp's 1913 bicycle wheel, the first modern work to express meaning through the transformative process of move-

Patrons can observe Ozawa commune productively with her muse most weekend afternoons through mid-December, and at-tend the Art Health Fair Decemtend the Art Health Fair December 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. View her new work beginning in January, and further discover her inspira-tions and techniques when she lectures on February 6. ▼

OMC is at Oak & 10th Sts., a block from the Lake Merritt BART station. Museum hours: Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., Noon-5 p.m. Admission: \$8; \$5, seniors, students.

## Family affair

by Jim Piechota

A Good Divorce by John E. Keegan; Permanent Press; \$26

t's distressing to comprehend the statistics that over half of all marriages these days end in divorce — and that's heterosexual marriage, never mind gay mar-riage. And while men might initi-ate a lot of divorces, it is a safe as-sumption that women are also playing a part in the demise of playing a part in the demise of their divine union.

Such is the case in John Kee-

auth is the case in John Kee-gan's new novel, as Seattle lawyer Cy Stapleton must try and pick up the pieces after his wife Jude di-vorces him to "find herself." Her empowering revelation to begin

anew was encouraged by the con-

anew was encouraged by the consciousness-raising group she participates in — led by super-feminist Lill, someone Cy ends up dating for a while soon after.

As Cy whimpers through the difficult process of moving from a large family home to a basement apartment with weekend visitation rights for his two children, his perception of women and no-

this perception of women and no-tions of relationships change also, in mostly positive ways.

Cy's peacenik brother lends an ear and imparts some wise advice on how to hang tough. Cy does a valiant job and eventually becomes a new man along the way, embracing feminism and explor-ing his own needs and desires. His children, however, take it less in stride. When Lill, the leader



of Jude's women's group, moves in with Jude and they become a les-bian couple, drugs begin appear-ing around the house, and Cy's

daughter attempts suicide.
Cy tries to be cool with his exwife's new arrangement, though
he's surprised that his kids seem to have accepted their two mom-mies. In the end, he bones up on child custody laws and fights for

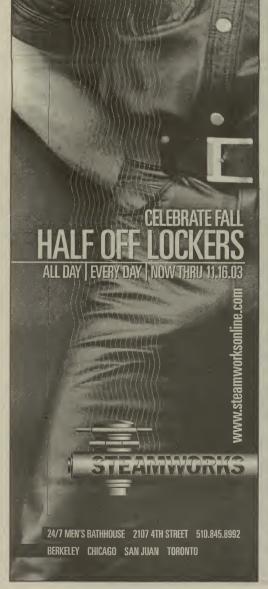
child custody laws and fights for parental rights.

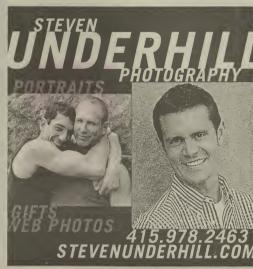
Nothing involving family drama evolves easily, but Keegan manages to keep a focused eye on his characters and presents all of the strife against a rich background of evolutionist family history and feminist-movement details.

Keegan's tale goes down easy

Keegan's tale goes down easy enough, but stories like this one always leaves a lump in the throat and a pinch in the heart.









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#### PARTING **GLANCES**

You- Kent State Sweatshirt
Me, Green outback hat. We exchanged smiles on MUNI leaving
Castro St. Fair, Again as I turned exiting up Civic Center escalator.
Wished I'd said Hi. Let's meet. 

72858

DAVIES MEDICAL CENTER
TUESDAY 10/14, 9am You: Walking to level A. Me: Carrying shirt on hanger. I liked your smile and friencly conversation. Coffee? © 72865

#### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Peninsula, South 0r East Bay Masculine WM 44 with defined chest, 31 waist, and nice sausage, seeks an-other lean bodied masculine guy 20 to 40's for on going friendship, fun activities, and naked intimacy 

72851

SF/Wine Country Living GWM 49 ht/wt prop mil buzz/clean shn HIV- SF wkdays wine ctr/home w/ends lkg for GM to enj both. \$\oldsymbol{\Omega}\$ 72852

Looking to Connect and More 6', 168# Lean men in SF. Well Hung, conservative, HIV-. Like lots of body contact, movies, jazz. In my late 40's. You are 35-55 and in good shape 22 72857

Nice Looking Latin
40 yrs old 5'8", 153lbs, medium athletic body. Bottom. Husky, nice looking. Seeking GWM or GLM, 30 to 40 yrs old. No drugs, light drinking ok, no smoking. Slim +. For dating № 72859

GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt seeking drinking, the seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc., Not a sex ad. Age, Size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. 120

To Share Great Times! Attractive Hispanic Male 44. Masculine Muscular iso Friend to hang out with. My interests are the gym, movies, sports. Live in Concord. © 72866

Asian
Young looking, caring GAM, mid
50s, slim, is looking for an older
GWM for relationship. We enjoy
gardening, quiet time, traveling,
cooking. No smoking 2 72867

Muscular Caucasion 46yrs Seeks Asian to date on reg basis. Possible long term relationship. Please be serious, smooth, fit. 25-50 yrs. No games BS. 

2 72868

Seeking Friendship GJM near Lake Merritt seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, baseball, drinking etc. Not a sex ad. Age race, size, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspec-tive in my life. 12 72869

Nice Attractive Guy Wants to date. 45, white, HIV+, 6′, 170, healthy, happy and fun. Wants to meet Top African American, Latino or Asian guys who are relationship oriented. 22 72879

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not
worth risking your life over. Play
safe. Wear a condom. See SAFE

Santa Rosa Native SWM, 42, 5'10", 170#, redhead, ex Navy. Enjoys drumnming, talk radio, tennis seeks relationship. 22 72880

Hot Older
Missed earlier ad by 48 yr old GLM
looking for men over 60 for oral plea sures. I am 64 have nice daddy dick, stache. Pls rerun yr ad. 

↑ 72886

#### SEEKING **ADVENTURE**

Rim Chair Service I want to eat your butt big time. Bring it to me kissing sweet. \$\oldsymbol{\Omega}\$72875

Hairy Butt and Stinky Feet Wanted by masculine dude. Into oral servicing ripe pitts, feet and hairy

butts. Seeking hairy dude to stroke with kick back , sniff, fool around with my pole. Me: 32yr, 5'10", 165#, BLK ☎ 72870

Three Way Sex
Two men want fun friendly safe sex
w/ hung white or Latin Men 25-45.
Kickback, hot tub, massage or great
sex. Let us make your fantasy cum
true. Antioch. 22 72871

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not
worth risking your life over. Always
play safe. Wear a condom and never
exchange bodily fluids. Remember,
safe sex is hot sex! SAFE

Older Big Black Top Wanted

Naked Massage
Free sensual full body experience for masculine guys up to age 45 with tight trim waislines by another trim waisted naked masculine guy. 

72873

Do You have Huge Nipples? Then I'd like to meet you. I love to suck, lick and service your huge, lo ,thick, nipples. Only 1" or longer please ☎ 72874

Mutual hot J0 and Oral Play ISO guys into J0 and Oral. Give, take. Let's help each other shoot seismic loads with aftershocks. I'm 5'9", 190#, mature 50's gdlk, pierced with shaved head. This ad is honest UB2 @ 72881

honest UB2 © 72881

150 One Great Man

Me: 175#, HIV-, 6'2" Top Looking
for white or Latino bottom, 35-50,
for long encounters. You be adventuresome, helpfuh and weight proportional. Call. Oakland. © 72882

3 some Wanted VGLK AZN, 27yrs, 5'7", 140#, very cute. No attitude w/ nice dick seeking nice GWM?GAM couple for fun and friendship. Please be goodlooking , under 35...Honest HIV- № 72883

Hot suck/rim in Santa Cruz Co. Horny a lot? Tired of beating off? Come overnight with me (or not). Be orally serviced by wm, 48. All I aces welcome. Reciprocation not expect-ed. Be 18-28, slender. Call TJ @ 72884

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom and ne
exchange bodily fluids. 

SAFE

Spank your butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5"11",
175#, seeks well-built bottom with
nice round ass for over-the knee
spanking, role playing and plowing
your ass. \$\mathbb{Q}\$ 72887

Peninsula Male
43 yrs, trim, healthy, discreet, bi-curious seeks older 55+ male, female,
ty, couple for fondling, oral, j.o., roleplay, new ideas. Likes panties. No
pain. 

72888

GAM ISO GWM for safe clean fun 39, 5'10", slender build, clean cut, professional. Not into scene. Enjoy long foreplay, kissing, jo, oral, massage, showers, lots of body contact. Must be STD free, healthy living. © 72889

Mature Japanese Men
Any age 35 - 75, any weight or size, serviced by bottom bear, 43, 5°9", 220, HIV -, beard, hairy. Am very oral (front and rear), Greek passive, anxious to please. 272890

#### **FETISHES**

Captain Emeritus/ US Olympic cock sucking Team! Need I say more? OK treat your dick, uncut a plus, to this world class difference! 22 72878

Shaved Crotch And Pits Seeking guys into smooth and shaved tall & lanky top 50's HIV- who loves attention then plows you. 

2 72854

Underwear Club!
Exchange, model, worship, shop,
shiff: Briefs, boxers, boxer-briefs, and
jocks, thongs, C-and-B Gear-You and
me: Well built, size M or S, into
sucking and Jio. Sklivvies drawer inspection! 

↑ 72855

ISO Serious Ripple Workout Buddy. 48 yo, GWM 220# stocky serious nipple pilg w huge erect nip-ples, Brmbm, salikpepper goatee. Tats, piercings smoker iso serious masculing, muscular dom. nipple workout buddy for serious nipple play!!. Smoke A+ Please call. 12 72863

Stroking for Hours
Seeking masculine/average guy for
heavy, intense JO, diryt talk, cock
worship. Drinking, partying budd desived Some oral ok. Your place pmionly. Not into toys, videos, groups, il
anal, Long partying scenes only. 22,
72864

Does Nip Work Drive You Crazy? Does Nip Work Drive You Crazy?
This nip pig wants some mutual nip
action with similar type guy. I am
built, hairy, mature, tall, masculine
with nice nips. Pluses are tight body,
hairy chest, poz, and 40-50 yrs. old.
Looking for single SF men only. Beglinners or experienced. 20 72876
I'd he Fusi kips. Bloom 26
to suck you all nie way off, uncut a
plus, to see if my world class techniques out do averages 3 pursts to hit
jackpot at 5, 6 spurts. 20 72877

StR8 Guys Dig My Cocksucking and give me respect. They are use to the lousy blowjobs their females de-liver. So it's straight only for me please. 22 72885

Nasty Hot Top GWM 47 masculine, hairy, construction worker, cop - likes role playing, showing off - seeks older in shape bottoms to sniff around my shorts, takes orders, suit. 272891

Masculine Straight life long pussy eater seeking WM 70-75 to teach me art of sucking cock. Begin bare skin end covered or jo on my face. Choice is yours.

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not
worth risking your life over. Always
play safe. Wear a condom and never
exchange bodily fluids. Remember,
safe sex is hot sex! © SAFE

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Parting Glances	Headline, 30 characters maximum	ĺ
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Seeking Adventure	Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum	
Lesbian		ĺ
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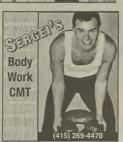
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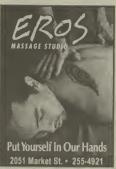
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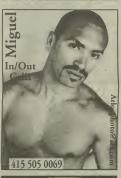
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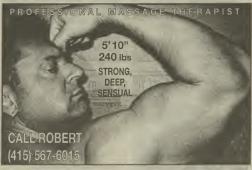
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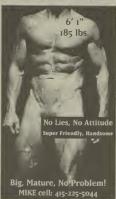
Eric 305-6856 cute, slim,cleancut Smoothbody,versatile,br/grn/7x6, 5'7",130# Gym toned, 25 yrs.

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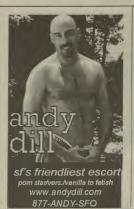
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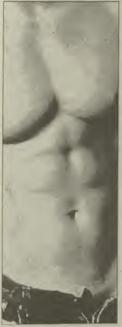
















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NOVEMBER 13-16, 2003

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